

Kent on Sunday

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MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR
READERS AND ADVERTISERS

Edition No 587

NEWS »

Pughsley confirmed as county's top cop

Will take over as new chief
constable in January

IN FOCUS »

Healing power of restorative justice

Why victims meeting criminals is
providing relief and redemption

PROFILE »

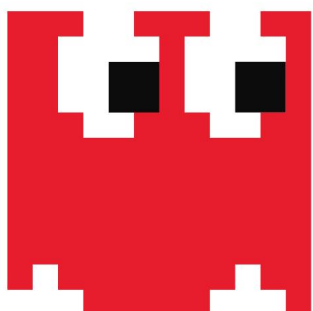
Shining the light on homelessness

We meet Porchlight
charity chief

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Airport plan lives on

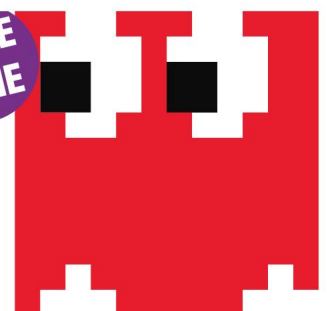
What will it take for estuary
scheme to finally be ditched?



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Airport blow aside, be sure to enjoy this season of goodwill

I SUPPOSE we should have expected we'd be left disappointed, but the wishy-washy interim report from the Davies Commission this week was thoroughly disheartening.

With the exception of one vocal local group – the few individuals within which would appear simply to be keen on a bit of self-promotion – there is no collective championing the cause of a Thames Estuary airport. There is, instead, a whole chorus of folk who stand united in opposition.

And when that includes parties from across the political spectrum and at all levels of local government, it goes some way towards clarifying how the issue of an airport has created a mutual focus for our communities.

Let us hope that by the power of collective will, Howard Davies will examine and then reject, once and for all, the airport on Grain.



Editor **Chris Britcher**

But we have plenty of time next year to fight that battle – and fight, and win we will. For now we should all enjoy this very special time of year.

However old you are, there remains a certain magic in the air around Christmas and that's a feeling we should all look to revel in, albeit for a few happy days. Inside, an academic from the University of Kent looks at the evolution of Christmas from its pagan roots to what we know today.

As ever at this time of year it is also worth remembering those not so fortunate.

Inside we profile the man leading one of the most proactive charities tackling homelessness. It's both upsetting and inspiring.

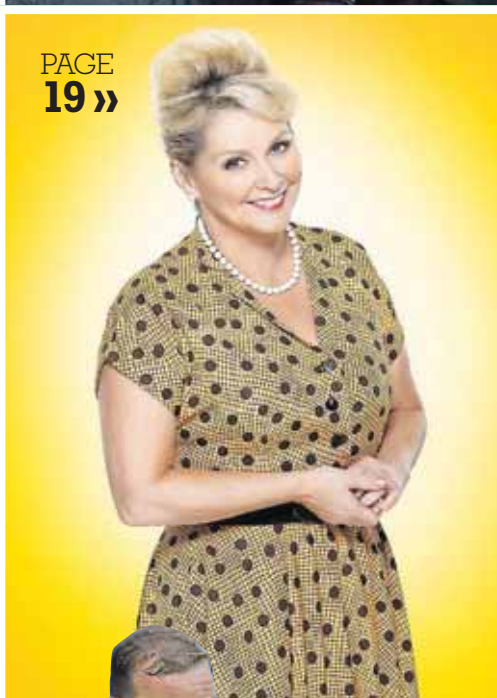
For now though, from everyone here at Archant

KOS Media, we wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas. Have a good one.

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Pughsley confirmed as county's next top officer

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

KENT'S new top cop has been confirmed as the current deputy chief constable, Alan Pughsley.

He will take over as Chief Constable of Kent Police on January 4 when the current top officer, Ian Learmonth, leaves the force.

Dep Ch Con Pughsley was confirmed as the successful candidate at a meeting of the Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel on Friday. He will become the county's most senior officer.

He was one of three candidates vying for the role of chief constable, which was up for grabs after Ch Con Learmonth announced in October he would be retiring.

"It's an absolute privilege to be offered this role and to have the opportunity to lead an excellent police force," said Dep Ch Con Pughsley.

"I'm really looking forward to starting on January 4."

Dep Ch Con Pughsley joined Kent Police in April 2009 as assistant chief constable for specialist operations, heading up the joint Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate.



NEW CHIEF: Current Dep Ch Con Alan Pughsley and PCC Ann Barnes

In March 2011 he took on the role of deputy chief constable.

Before joining the county's force, he worked at the Metropolitan Police from 1984 with expertise in murder, armed robbery, firearms

and drug related criminal investigations.

He also served as a borough commander in Lewisham, where he was responsible for 640 police officers and 180 police staff to

deliver national crime reduction targets and improve customer confidence.

During his career he worked at Surrey Police as a detective superintendent.

Ann Barnes, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, said: "I'm absolutely delighted that the appointment has been confirmed."

"I'm looking forward to working closely with Alan once he's in post."

The appointment follows what Mrs Barnes described as "a robust and challenging selection process".

The recruitment panel included Mrs Barnes, policing adviser and former Ch Con of West Mercia Police, Paul West, Nadeem Aziz, chief executive of Dover District Council, and Michael Bax, a former High Sheriff and local businessman.

As one of her duties as PCC, Mrs Barnes has the power to hire and fire the chief constable.

All eyes are now on who Mrs Barnes appoints as her youth commissioner.

A decision is expected within the coming weeks. They will follow in the footsteps of Paris Brown, the Sheerness teenager who had to quit the role after embarrassing comments on Twitter.

Urgent appeal for blood donations to help boost dwindling winter stock

URGENT appeals have gone out across the county urging people to give blood this Christmas as supplies dwindle over the festive season.

NHS Blood and Transplant said November through to the New Year is typically a challenging time for blood stocks as people become wrapped up in preparing for Christmas or are too busy out celebrating.

Hospitals in England need around 7,000 units of blood every day to treat patients with cancer, blood disorders as well as women needing blood during childbirth.

Stocks are also crucial to care in A&E, particularly during the winter months.

"This is an extremely challenging time of year for us as we need to make sure that hospitals are supplied with the blood they need to treat patients over the Christmas holidays," said John Canning, NHS Blood and Transplant's lead donor relations manager for Kent.

"So while people are in a generous

frame of mind, we're asking that they don't forget those whose must-have gift is blood.

"Donating doesn't cost a penny and saves lives, meaning many more children and adults can spend precious time with their families over Christmas.

"Whether you're a regular blood donor, or are new to donating, you can make a real difference. So please make an appointment now to save lives."

Figures released this week also revealed that 178 people in Kent are waiting for a transplant this Christmas. In the last five years, 49 people have died due to shortage or organs.

NHS Blood and Transplant is appealing to people to talk with their families about potentially becoming a donor.

Anthony Clarkson, acting director of organ donation and transplantation at NHS Blood and Transplant, said: "To help save more people we need everyone to talk to their loved ones about their donation decision."

Ex-con back in jail after Grand Theft Auto-style police chase

A CARJACKER who sparked a Grand Theft Auto-style police chase after stealing a car in Chatham has been jailed for more than three years.

Samuel Wells had been out of prison for just one day when he carried out the carjacking following a drinking binge.

His victim, who was stopped at traffic lights, gave the 31-year-old directions to the train station

before Wells got in the car and, once it pulled over, tried to grab the keys, getting what looked like a knife out of his waistband.

The victim managed to escape and raise the alarm and a police chase ensued with Wells eventually crashing the stolen car into railings in Lewisham.

He told officers he had just got out of prison and had nowhere to go so began drinking.

Driver robbed at knife-point after giving reveller lift home

A KNIFE-WIELDING thug who robbed a kind driver who gave him a life home has been locked up for 18 months.

Darren Griffin, 21, of Albert Road, Folkestone, pulled out a bread knife while he was being dropped off in Park Farm Road after a party in June and threatened to stab the 25-year-old driver, demanding he hand over his wallet.

The victim, from Hawkinge, who Griffin knew, was kned in the face during a struggle and suffered a black eye. Griffin made off with cash from his wallet.

Det Con Darren Brough said: "The victim in this case was a vulnerable individual targeted by Griffin and I would commend his bravery in standing up to his assailant both at the time and during the court process."



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Seaside village stars in latest big screen movie

THE New Romney village of Littlestone-on-Sea takes a starring role in the new Harry Hill Movie which hit the big screen on Friday.

It doubles up as a fictitious seaside town with filming taking place over five days in May.

Harry Hill, who lives in Whitstable, stars and co-wrote his big screen debut which also stars Julie Walters, Jim Broadbent, Simon Bird and Matt Lucas.

The Kent County Council Film Office said the filming ploughed an estimated £32,000 into the local economy.

Leader of Shepway District Council, David Monk, said: "We have some unrivalled locations for filming, from rolling chalk downland to wild marshes, from vibrant towns to sleepy villages. And of course we have a wonderful coastline – including Littlestone beach with its miles of sand."



STAR: Chart topper heads to county

Jessie J to play in the forest this summer

CHART star Jessie J has been the first to confirm she is to play one of the popular live music concerts at Bedgebury this summer.

The performer, who has enjoyed a string of hits including Price Tag, Domino, Thunder and Wild, is also one of the judges on popular BBC talent show The Voice.

She also recently performed a sell-out UK arena tour.

Now she will be heading to the forest near Tunbridge Wells to perform as part of a string of shows staged on land owned by the Forestry Commission.

The shows are without commercial branding or sponsorship, with income derived from the events going to improve the woodland for both visitors and wildlife.

Jessie J will perform at Bedgebury Pinetum on June 20.

She said: "I made my Forest Live debut this summer with just one show which I loved so it's great to be taking in another four Forest Live dates next year."

She'll also be performing shows in Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire.

Tickets are on sale now, priced at £42.90. Previous performers to have played at Bedgebury include Simple Minds and Erasure.

Plans for undersea power link given the go-ahead at former power station site

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

AMBITIOUS plans to run electricity under the sea between Kent and Belgium have taken a major step forward after planning permission was granted for development at the former Richborough power station site.

Thanet District Council planners nodded through an application for an electricity substation, a converter station and underground cables between Richborough and Pegwell Bay on Wednesday night.

These will form the onshore part of the subsea interconnector link to Belgium, known as the Nemo Link.

The project is being developed jointly by National Grid Nemo Link Ltd and Belgium transmission company Elia and will be completed in 2018.

It will enable 1,000 megawatts of electricity to be traded between the UK and Europe.

The subsea cables will run 130 kilometres from Richborough, pre-



GONE: Towers demolished in 2012

viously home to the power station and chimneys torn down in 2012, to Zeebrugge in Belgium.

Mark Pearce, project director for National Grid, said: "We are delighted Thanet District Council has

granted us planning permission as the Richborough site is ideally suited for the development.

"We look forward to working with the local authorities, communities and interest groups as the project progresses.

"Interconnectors will have an important role in diversifying the sources of electricity for this country and helping to keep our supplies secure. It will also help create a competitive European market."

A decision from Dover District Council, whose borders stretch to the power plant site, is expected in the next few weeks.

From the Sandwich site, the Nemo Link will connect with the Richborough Connection – a separate project by National Grid involving the proposed development of up to 70 giant high voltage pylons stretching from the substation in Broad Oak Road, Canterbury, to another in Richborough, passing through Upstreet, Hersden, Chislet, Broad Oak and Sturry. Fears have been voiced over the impact on the landscape.

Teacher is jailed after relationship with pupil

A TEACHER who had a sexual relationship with a teenage pupil is starting an eight month jail term.

Richard Pink, 32, of Brooklands Road, Larkfield had exchanged sexual text messages and emails with the girl after she revealed a crush on him.

The pair then engaged in sexual activity at the school in Snodland and then at the teacher's home.

When it ended, the girl, 17, informed her parents, who reported it to police. Pink pleaded guilty to four counts of sexual activity with a child while in a position of trust.

Detective Constable Emma Crombie said: "Teachers are in a highly important position of trust and Pink abused this severely with a vulnerable girl by inciting her into a sexual relationship. The relationship was consensual but Pink should have known better and realised that his behaviour was completely wrong. As a result of his actions he has lost his career as a teacher and must now serve a prison sentence."

Move to reverse drop in turtle dove numbers

CONSERVATIONISTS and farmers are teaming up to help protect the threatened turtle dove after numbers fell dramatically this year.

A recent survey, the State of UK Birds, by the RSPB, revealed an 85 per cent drop in the bird's numbers since 1995.

The bird is immortalised in the song The Twelve Days of Christmas, but is now in a steep decline.

The RSPB has already advised farmers across the region to increase the amount of suitable foraging habitat - now it is looking to make similar changes at its nature reserves to make them more turtle dove friendly.

Northward Hill, on Grain, and Broadwater Warren, near Tunbridge Wells, are among those taking steps to increase the numbers by providing potential nesting areas and growing plants which produce the seeds they eat.

Hayley New from the RSPB said: "Kent was one of the top counties for sightings so we want to carry on our work with farmers to help improve things in 2014."

Spa town all set to launch wifi network

TUNBRIDGE Wells is getting set to launch its very own wireless network.

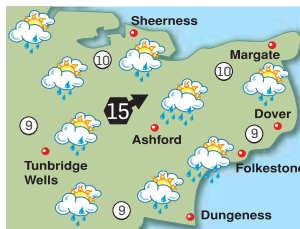
TWifi will give free public access in various areas of the town for three months when it launches - and then for 15 minutes a day after that. Any more and there will be a pay-as-you-go option.

It will also link visitors swiftly to a number of key websites detailing attractions, shops and public services.

It is a result of a partnership between Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and MLL Telecom.

Jane March, cabinet member on the council, said: "This is an exciting project which we think will offer lots of benefits to users and be very helpful for our visitors."

The first phase of the project is expected to be up and running in January with coverage in the wider town centre a few months later. In the longer term the partnership offers the potential for improved broadband in the rural areas and business centres of the borough.



TODAY: Variable cloud, sunny spells and showers. Moderate winds. Max temp 8-11C (46-52F). **TONIGHT:** Variable cloud and showers. Min temp 5-8C (41-46F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	01.31	6.4	13.40	6.1
Margate	02.26	4.5	14.51	4.4
St Mary's	07.17	5.2	19.36	5.0

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 12C	Min 8C
Tuesday	Max 11C	Min 4C
Wednesday	Max 9C	Min 5C
Thursday	Max 9C	Min 7C
Friday	Max 10C	Min 4C
Saturday	Max 9C	Min 3C

agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

Archbishop's inaugural Christmas Day sermon

THE Archbishop of Canterbury will address the masses at Canterbury Cathedral on Wednesday in what will be his first Christmas Day sermon.

The Most Reverend Justin Welby was enthroned earlier this year at the cathedral amid a spectacular ceremony attended by Prince Charles and the Duchess of

Cornwall and other senior figures including David Cameron and Labour leader Ed Miliband.

He replaced Lord Rowan Williams who held the post for 10 years.

The 57-year-old was formally sworn in as head of the Church of England and spiritual leader of the 85 million-strong Anglican global communion in March.



In his first sermon, he spoke of his optimism of the Christian faith.

On Christmas Day he will address his congregation which covers the diocese of Canterbury, Dover, Maidstone and Ashford.

Bumper crowds expected in last ditch dash for gifts

RETAIL outlets are expecting bumper crowds this week as shoppers make a last minute dash to grab gifts ahead of Christmas Day – and then make a beeline for the sales.

A number of shops at Bluewater will stay open until midnight on Monday to cater for the last minute surge.

The shopping centre is

predicting more than half a million people will descend between Friday and Monday with the combination of school holidays and people getting paid early.

But it won't stop there. With sales starting on Boxing Day, shops across the county are expecting a deluge of bargain-hunters later in the week.

...also

Fire crews to strike again

FIREFIGHTERS in Kent will strike for the seventh time on Christmas Eve between 7pm to midnight.

Members of the Fire Brigade Union are taking action over a threat to their pensions. Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) is urging people to take extra care.

Actor's Pemberley role

EX-WATERLOO Road star and Paddock Wood resident Philip Martin Brown will appear in the much anticipated three-part drama *Death Comes to Pemberley*.

Based on the novel by PD James, the sequel to *Pride and Prejudice* begins on BBC One at 8.15pm on Boxing Day.

Creating a chilly splash

HUNDREDS of daring Kent residents will brave the cold waters of the English Channel on Thursday for the annual Boxing Day dip.

Swimmers will take part in events around the coastline, including Deal, Dover, Folkestone and Thanet.

Will it be a white Xmas?

THE chances of a white Christmas seem remote this year, with forecasters predicting a mild week.

Bookmakers say the odds on snow falling in London are 7-1, while the Met Office says temperatures could reach into double figures with the chance of rain.

Early Bird Bargains

These items are available on a strictly "first come first served basis"

	WAS	Early Bird
Como large cream leather sofa	£2,049	£350
Antix oak circular dining table with 2 leaves	£1,195	£275
Collins & Hayes catalina lounge chair	£1,505	£249
Stone International leather & stone coffee table	£949	£159
Collins & Hayes extra large stool	£669	£129
Natuzzi joanne swivel chair	£685	£99
Natuzzi narrow glass shelf unit/room divider	£699	£99
Carlton cross leg coffee table	£405	£90
Stone International leather and stone lamp table	£695	£79
Calligaris jam stool	£365	£45
Calligaris wein chair	£215	£40
Sanchez white glass and oak lamp table	£175	£25

All Early Bird Bargains are not repeatable and can **only be purchased in-store** from **Friday 27th December**

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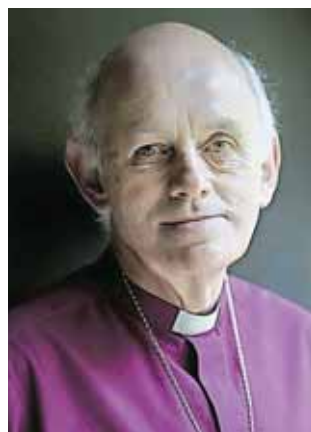


SALE STARTS
Friday 27th December

LENLEYS
sale

Mandela's message resonates

With the recent passing of Nelson Mandela, Bishop of Dover the Right Reverend **Trevor Willmott**, pays tribute to the great man and says his forgiveness and understanding reflect Jesus' own trials on earth



TWENTY-SEVEN years is a long time. It is long enough to go from being a child to becoming a parent, or from being a parent to becoming a grandparent.

If you are lucky, 27 years is long enough to pay-off a mortgage, build a business or travel the world.

But what would spending 27 years in captivity do to you?

Twenty-seven years away from your family, in a confined space where you cannot make simple decisions for yourself, such as what to eat or when to wake up.

And if you were also mistreated during those years, forced to do hard labour, urinated on, mocked and beaten, how would you feel once released from prison?

What if you were imprisoned in the first place, not because you had murdered or harmed someone, but because your political views and actions were opposed to a regime that sought to oppress its people?

My guess is most of us would spend those 27 years plotting our revenge.

We would mentally escape the physical hardships by imagining the harm we could bring to our oppressors once we were freed.

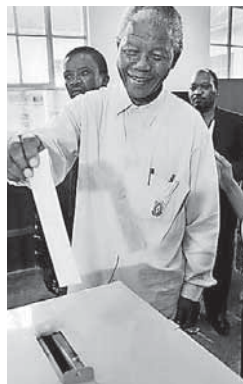
Plotting insults to match those we endured, dreaming of violent acts to assuage our anger.

We know from the many recent obituaries and from the speeches made at Nelson Mandela's memorial service, that as a political prisoner, Mandela spent his 27 years in captivity dreaming and plotting to bring his people to freedom, not through violence, but through peace and reconciliation.

Mandela described his faith as one of the greatest motivating factors in his work, and his story echoes the cost of God's true love for us shown in Jesus.

That Mandela invited one of his

former jailers from Robben Island to be an honoured guest as he was inaugurated president of South Africa in 1994, is testament to how deeply and personally he lived his faith.



At Christmas, we celebrate how God came to earth as a baby, a baby born in degrading surroundings who grew to be a man who was rejected, beaten and humiliated.

In that little baby, God came to save us through love and reconciliation.

In Jesus, God comes to absorb the very worst of humanity.

He subjected himself to the most evil behaviours man can

demonstrate.

But just like Mandela, Jesus did not seek revenge, did not fight, and did not seek recourse in violence.

He came to show people that there

is a better way. He demonstrated God's love for us and his forgiveness. He came to reconcile his people to their heavenly father.

By giving us the gift of Jesus, God breaks the cycle of insult for insult, violence for violence, conflict against conflict.

We give presents to each other at Christmas in recognition of the gift God gave us – Jesus Christ.

This Christmas, as we also mourn the passing of Nelson Mandela, let us think about gifts we can give each other that do not cost money.

Gifts of generosity and love that Nelson Mandela personified; a reflection of the greater story of Christ.

Is there someone in your life to whom you could stretch out the hand of hospitality?

Is there someone whom you can forgive for a past ill, someone whom you could stop insulting, or someone who you can love whom you have hated before?

I pray this Christmas, that you will welcome the gift of Jesus and share his love and grace with others.

STARTS BOXING DAY 11AM - 6PM

Friday 27 December	9am - 7pm
Saturday 28 December	9am - 6pm
Sunday 29 December	10.30am - 4.30pm
Monday 30 December	9am - 6pm
New Year's Eve	9am - 5pm
New Year's Day	CLOSED

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Uniting offenders and their victims to hear of the agony

Restorative justice puts criminals in front of victims to discuss just what impact their actions had. **Marijke Cox** spoke to three people who have taken part in the new scheme and how it affected them

PETER Woolf was once described as a walking crime wave. Committing, he estimates, some 20,000 crimes, he spent 18-and-a-half years of his life detained at Her Majesty's pleasure.

"I did every crime you can think of other than murder and sex offences – and murder was more by luck than judgement," he admits.

Crime ran in his blood.

His grandfather was a bank robber; his grandmother, a frequent buyer of stolen goods.

Joining the criminal underworld, he says, was a natural progression.

But it was a crime in 2002 – no different, really, to any other he had committed – which would see him eventually turn his back on the only way of life he knew.

What differed in this particular offence – an attempted burglary which ended in violence – was, afterwards, Woolf had to face his victim

and see with his own eyes the truly devastating impact his actions had.

And so the tables were turned.

Called restorative justice, the unique scheme brings criminals and victims face-to-face and with an open floor to discuss what happened.

Significantly, the victim can ask the simple question: why? Sometimes, they demand an apology.

While coming so close to the person who caused such pain and torment could be some people's worst nightmare, for others it allows closure on something which has not only introduced distrust and fear into their lives, but anger.

The scheme began being rolled out in the county, for certain low-level offences, such as anti-social behaviour, in 2010, following a pilot in a handful of Kent towns.

But earlier this year, Kent was selected as one of three areas nationally to deliver new pre-sentence restorative justice, where the offender has plead-

ed guilty and is offered restorative intervention – as long as the victim is willing.

It puts restorative justice on a statutory footing, meaning courts, under the Crime and Courts Act 2013, can use existing powers to defer sentencing to allow for such action to take place.

The move is being seen as a major push for more frequent use of the scheme.

In addition, last month, policing minister and Ashford MP Damian Green announced £311,000 of funding over the next two years to support restorative justice across Kent.

Funded by fines levied on criminals as well as confiscations of ill-gotten gains, it will, Mr Green said, allow everyone affected by the incident to get support and move on.

"It gives victims the opportunity to look offenders in the eye and explain to them the real impact the crime has had on their life," he said.

"The process also provides a

chance for offenders to face the consequences of their actions."

He dismissed criticism that restorative justice was a "soft touch" and pointed out the reduction it caused in re-offending – something of a Holy Grail for the criminal justice system.

Earlier this month, the Kent Criminal Justice Board launched the county's new "end-to-end" pathfinder delivery model at a conference at Kent Police's training college in Maidstone.

Police officers, representatives from Kent Probation and others involved in the delivery of justice for victims attended to hear what the restorative process entails.

A Kent Probation spokeswoman said: "End-to-end sees restorative justice (RJ) being used at every point of the criminal justice system, involving the pathfinder, as well as work by prisons, Kent Police, Victim Support and Kent Probation.

"It means victims have a choice to access RJ at any point in the criminal

justice system – before conviction, after conviction as part of a sentencing option and post-conviction, for example when the person is in prison.

"This is unique and we believe we are the only area to offer this."

To really hit home the impact it can have, a victim of crime and an ex-crook explained firsthand their own experiences.

The two were not united by the crime, but could reflect on both sides of the fence.

Afterwards, to help raise awareness of the scheme, both agreed to speak to this newspaper to give a real-life insight into what goes on in those restorative justice "conferences".

The cases were surprising. Spoken with frank honesty, they laid bare the anger, bewilderment, compassion and understanding felt during their own journey through the system.

Here are their stories...



Victim: Irené Crombie:

"IT'S A funny feeling knowing someone has been in your house – this person has handled all your stuff, he's handled your things. He's part of the family now."

Irené Crombie had, perhaps, a different reaction to most when she and her husband Peter were burgled last December.

Uneasy, yes. Angry, a little. But most of all she was intrigued.

"I thought, 'who is this chap who has been into our house?' I felt I wanted to know this guy. It's near Christmas, he could be desperate.

"We live in a modest bungalow just out of Tunbridge Wells. Why come to something as modest as us when there are more expensive houses around?

"He could have done better to go to one of those."

Kent Police, in fact, had already found the culprit.

Fingerprints and footprints at the property matched those of a man already entrenched in a life of crime and drugs.

John – whose name has been changed – was arrested and detained.

For Mrs Crombie – who admitted she was devastated when she realised her engagement ring and her mother's had been taken – life carried on as normal.

But the 86-year-old admitted the same question kept coming back to her: who was this man who had been in her house?

When John was sentenced to three years in prison, a picture appeared in the media and she admitted thinking he looked "gentle and human".

"He was a young man, 25, with responsibilities. He had two children and a third was on its way.

"I was keen to meet him."

Sergeant Jim Watson, from Kent Police, stepped in as well as Kent Probation and a date was set up in May for her to meet with the man who had temporarily turned her life upside down.

And so the day arrived and Mrs Crombie went to HMP Rochester.

"I expected it would be easy to get in, but you have to go through all these gentlemen. What's your identity, they asked me through bars – it's quite daunting.

"But what I was not daunted or nervous about was meeting him.

"Of course I felt resentful, but I also felt compassion for this chap who was reduced to this sort of thing: to have to go and steal from people. I wondered whether it would be possible to help him to get a leg up out of this?

"So we went in and had this incredible afternoon where I, Jim [Sgt Watson], the prisoner and his wife Crystal – the mother of his children – were in this nice ordinary room.

"They didn't bring him in ceremoniously. He looked extremely like Vladimir Putin, but an ethereal version of him and rather sort of nervous.

"The other people who were there all sort of melted into the wall and I was just aware of him."

Mrs Crombie, firstly, asked him if he was happy with the new prison he was in.

"He wasn't good at articulation, he's not an eloquent chap, he needs a lot of help with his communication and literature.

"But he warmed up a bit and said what he could.

"Jim took over when I'd run out of

questions and said to him, finally, would you like to say sorry to Irené?

"Yes", he said, "yes. I'm sorry Irené", and he got up, walked over to the table and embraced me.

"I got up and hugged him back. It was two human beings coming together with affection, remorse, hope, understanding. He was very upset and the tears were streaming. He had to go out because he couldn't go on so he had a break."

On his return, the focus turned to his wife.

"Now," said Mrs Crombie, "she is a star turn. She is very bright, she's intelligent and eloquent. She had us all in tears. She said, without him, she couldn't do this on her own, with three children in this tiny little flat.

"Trying to get up the stairs with a pram, two children and a babe in arms – I was really most concerned for her.

"She said, I can't go on if this goes on. I can't take much more of it."

Mrs Crombie, a retired publishing editor, said she understood having been through something similar herself.

"A woman cannot be herself and earn money with one of these chaps attached to her, a parasite. So it was all very emotional," she said.

"I suspected that behind this man, there was a woman suffering."

John asked Mrs Crombie to visit again.

"I said yes, of course. I would certainly like to see him again."

Mrs Crombie has also attempted to keep in contact with Crystal.

"Poor girl, she's so overwhelmed with life. Christmas is coming again – she spent last Christmas on her own, pregnant with two children, no money and no husband.

"I hope by meeting me John may have changed his ways.

"The information I've had has been he was doing classes and got himself an NVQ in cleaning.

"During our meeting, he was asked, 'do you want to, when you get out, take on a responsible part in life?'. Do you want to support your family and get a job and get back on the rails?'

"Yes, I do," he said, compassionately. And they were the last words I heard."

Mrs Crombie said restorative justice was a valuable process for her, although she admitted victims must prepare themselves in case it may not be successful.

"I think you have to be a certain type of person to do it. It gives you the satisfaction of knowing who has been in your house for one.

"But yes, I would recommend it. It brings in more than just the prisoner: it brings in his dependents and you can see life from his point of view and how he can behave as he is behaving, on drugs and all that sort of stuff, when he's got that responsibility.

"People like you and me wouldn't know how to do it because we have

“I got up and hugged him. It was two human beings coming together with affection, remorse, understanding. He was very upset the tears were streaming”

Irené Crombie, on meeting the man who broken into her home

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compassion and feel responsible, but the chaps who don't feel responsible and indulge their own fantasies and obsessions, those are the ones we have to deal with."

Mrs Crombie is hoping for another visit and has since written to John.

"I would have liked a reply and I think he needs a lot of practice in communicating with the outside world," she said.

"He doesn't know who his father was, I think he had a very poor upbringing. I've been encouraged that he's doing things though and I do think it will be arranged that I'll go and see him again."

Ex-offender: Peter Woolf

WHILE other children were learning at school, dreaming of being a teacher or doctor, Peter Woolf was honing his skills as a one-man crime wave.

Brought up by his grandparents, he admitted he was always going to be a criminal.

"My grandad was a bank robber and my nan was the woman on the estate who used to buy all the knocked off gear. All our family was involved, in one form or another, in crookedness, in crime. So it was the natural progression for me."

But along the way, and at a young age, he started taking drugs and drinking.

"I became a drug-addicted alcoholic. I'm not making excuses, because had I not been I still would have been a criminal.

"Nor do I apportion blame to anyone because my family did their best, they did what they thought was right.

"You've got this dysfunctional family syndrome. Well, my family wasn't dysfunctional, they were very functional – my grandad was very functional at robbing banks – so it wasn't dysfunctional.

"I was born and bred as a crook.

"I used to say to my aunt when I was living with her, 'can you get me up at 7am because I've got to go to work', and she used to get me up, but my work wasn't like your work – my work was criminal work."

He committed every crime except murder and sex offences – and not committing murder was "more by luck than judgement" the 55-year-old admitted.

"I robbed banks and I also was a shoplifter and burglar, a con man. It was just what you learned from people.

"To say it was an apprenticeship is sort of glamorising it and I don't want to do that. It's about hurting people; that's what crime does to people, it's hurts them.

"It's not that I didn't see that back then. I just didn't care.

"By the time I reached a certain age, it was all about me. Criminality is a very selfish thing, and when you couple it with drugs and alcohol the selfishness knows no bounds."

He was a criminal, yes, but that wasn't to say he was stupid.

During a four-year stretch in prison, he threw himself into books, reading firstly A Stone for Danny Fisher by Harold Robbins, and then onto novelists including Dostoevsky.

But he continued on his path of crime.

"I knew I'd go back to crime. My brother was doing life imprisonment for murder and all I ever wanted to do was look after him.

"I had no experience of life or other institutions. I'd get out, I'd get drugged up and drunk and go back."

"It was revolving door syndrome. But it was all to change.

Waking up in a squat one day, he looked around and saw human waste, drug paraphernalia and blood up the wall.

He walked to an upmarket area and broke into a house belonging to businessman Will Riley.

Mr Woolf was upstairs when he was disturbed by Mr Riley. A struggle broke out and the victim was smashed over the head with a metal grill, then a flower pot, before the pair rolled down the stairs and ended up on the street.

He was arrested and ended up behind bars.

But he was soon picked at random to take part in a restorative justice research programme by the Home Office.

"I now know the person who was doing the research and he's since told me that when they got my file out they thought they might as well give up then.

"At first I didn't want the meet. Prison was the ideal place for me. I could go to the gym, I could stay alive, I could get drugs, I could get alcohol, I could get anything I wanted.

"This person came to see me and asked whether I would go, and I said no.

"He went away and came back and he said these people – there were two victims at this stage because I'd been arrested for something else – needed some questions answered and only I could answer those questions

"He said they needed to be able to get a bit of closure on this and unless I met them and gave them my answers they were going to be haunted forever and a day by what I'd done."

It was a challenge, said Mr Woolf, and with the understanding he would get a packet of Hobnobs in exchange, he agreed.

"For 90 minutes the people I'd harmed the most, shared their pain with me. These people cried, laughed, wept, got angry and raged, told me a few home truths, shared their emotions, shared their pain.

"Up until that moment, a victim to me was a bit of paper.

"At first I was giving it the 'big 'un', going through the motions, talking the talk and I was feeling arrogant and quite comfortable with it all."

But then Mr Riley laid bare his feelings.

"He is six-foot five inches, an ex-university oarsman who goes training every day, a venture capitalist, a zillionaire.

"He went completely mental.

"He said: 'We didn't meet in some cocktail bar in Islington, you broke into my house.'

"He started listing all these things; not just about me hitting him, but about how it had pained him, and how it had affected his nine-year-old daughter and the relationship with his wife. He turns to his wife and he says: 'I am so sorry. I'm so sorry that I didn't protect you from this man. I'm so sorry that I allowed this to happen'.

"Victims carry guilt, they carry shame. He told me about how his nine-year-old daughter had been brought home by the nanny from school to see her daddy – her idol – with blood all over him being put into the back of an ambulance. It traumatised his baby. He's crying his eyes out as he's telling me this.

"This opened up the flood gates for the other victim who is a heart and lung surgeon.

"I'd stolen a laptop and all the time

“ He started listing these things; about how it had pained him, how it had affected his nine-year-old daughter and the relationship with his wife ”

Peter Woolf, on meeting one of the victims of his many crimes

I'd been able to justify it – they're rich, it's only a laptop.

"This chap tells me how he had been in a long-term relationship but he'd had to leave it as it was beyond repair and so he'd bought himself a one-bedroom flat because his life had been smashed to pieces.

"He'd gone to work and come back and his door had been smashed in, in effect I'd smashed his life to pieces all over again.

"As he's telling me this, he's crying. He tells me how he could never live in that place again, how he had to sell it, and I was thinking I'm responsible for forcing another man, another human being, out of his home.

"Then he tells me about this laptop. It wasn't just a laptop, I find out. If it was just a laptop you can just go and replace that.

"But on this laptop was all information and research about heart and lung transplants and there was an article which he was about to send off to The Lancet.

"He then broke down and cried and cried and I realised he wasn't crying about him, he was crying about other people because on that laptop was information about people who he was due to operate on, to save their lives.

"Not only was he traumatised in that he couldn't do the work, he couldn't pass the relevant information off to the next person which meant they couldn't do the work, so in effect I'd risked these people's lives by stealing just a laptop. It blew me away.

"What happened is I understood. Before it didn't matter. Victims were nameless, faceless, you don't even remember the names, it's nothing.

"I've been to the Old Bailey, all the crown courts – they were easy compared to sitting there, face-to-face with these people who I had harmed.

"Suddenly they say to me, we don't want you to do this anymore.

"They said what we'd like from you is for you to address your drug and alcohol addiction, get some education and work training and never do this to another human being again.

"But most of all, they said, can we write to you and you write to us and let us know how you're getting on.

"At first I thought I owed it to these people, but the more I was okay, the more it was okay to be okay."

Will Riley: Woolf's victim

"IT'S about 5pm and I'm in my office on the first floor and it's time to go to the gym.

"I go upstairs and as I walk up to the top landing I push open the door



and there is a man I've never seen before."

Peter Woolf is stood before him.

The distracted crook quickly lied, saying he was from number two and had heard a disturbance so was checking up on the house.

But when asked where number two was by Mr Riley, he pointed in the wrong direction.

"Peter unfortunately ran into a kitchenette that we have on the top floor and shouted 'knife' and I thought 'Oh God, now we're in trouble'."

Mr Riley was smashed over the head with a metal grill before the pair, embroiled in a struggle, rolled down the stairs, but not before he was hit over the head again, this time with a flower pot.

"It hurt, but I'm pumping so I don't feel very much.

"I kept going. I got him outside and shouted 'help me, help me', but it just looked like two middle-aged men having a ding dong."

Peter Woolf, who, at the time, thought it just a 'bad day at the office', was arrested and taken back to prison.

But Mr Riley was left damaged, both physically and mentally.

"I put my hand behind my head and realised my whole head was saturated with blood.

"My wife came to collect me from hospital and as I put my key in the door I suddenly had a fear that there would be someone on the other side.

"This happened day after day after day – I was scared.

"A police officer contacted me and said they were conducting a study into this thing called restorative justice and would I be interested in taking part."

Despite worries, he agreed.

"There he was. The guy who I'd fought about two months earlier and he's in these sort of prison garbs looking sheepish and I'm beginning to think 'what am I doing here?' but whatever it is, it's going to happen.

"He (Peter) was just going through the movements, the same old lines, the same old tripe and I'm beginning to get very, very annoyed.

"I just lose it completely. It comes out like a fire hydrant.

"For Peter, it was like a train hitting him, you could see it. He wasn't a man showing remorse because a lawyer had said show remorse to get time off, he was genuinely, genuinely affected by what we had said."

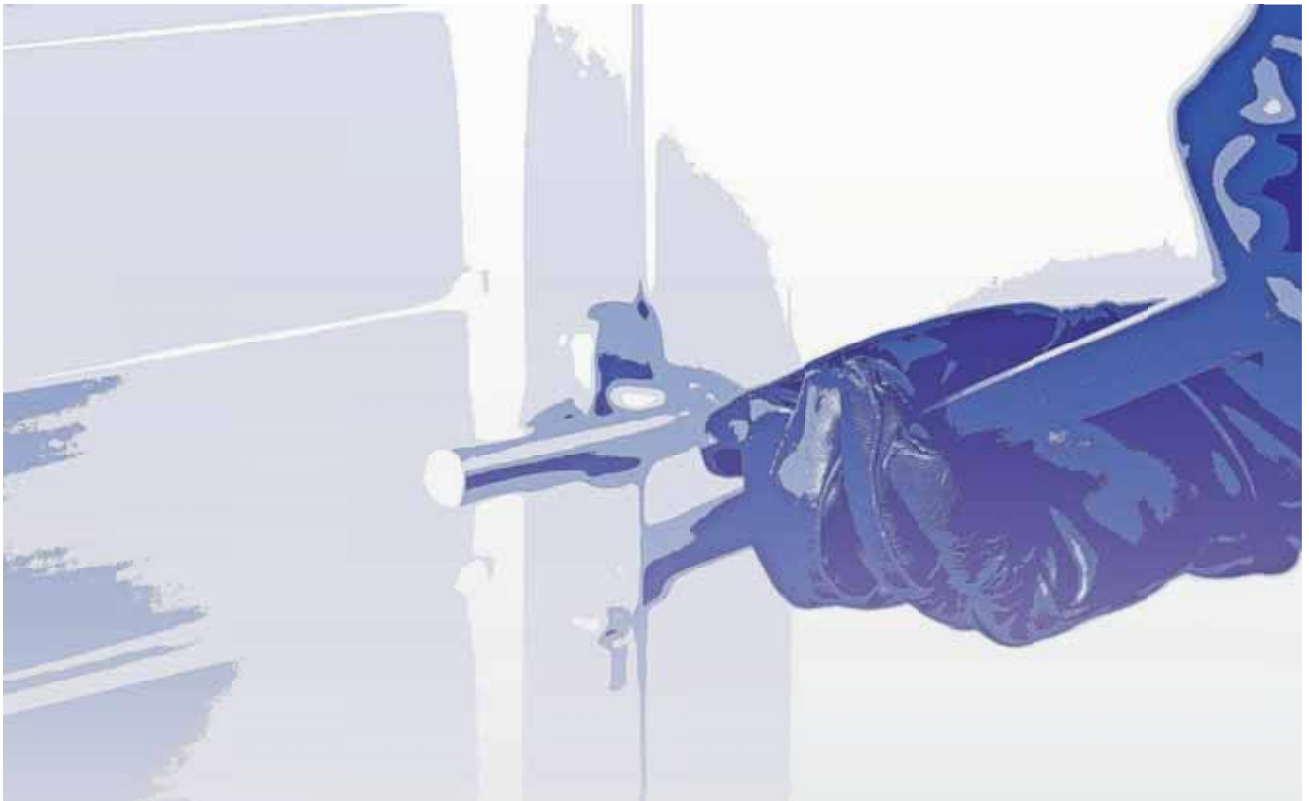
Once the meeting was over, Mr Riley felt he couldn't just leave it.

"You've got to help him help himself and therefore we went out and said, listen, we want to see you change, we want to help you in this process.

"In a court of law the victim sits in the public gallery; he, she, family, loved ones are the most affected by the crime yet they are the least involved in the process. That's all restorative justice is, bringing people around a table and have them say, well, why did you do that? Do you understand how that affected me?

"We have become utter converts to restorative justice, to bringing offenders and victims together."

Eleven years on, Mr Woolf is clean and sober and has never committed a crime again. Surprisingly, Mr Riley and Mr Woolf became friends and Mr Riley set up Why Me? a charity aimed at putting victims first in the restorative justice system. Mr Woolf has also written a book – The Damage Done – with all proceeds going to the charity.



Kent Probation director, Tracey Kadir, talks about the end-to-end pathfinder programme launched this year in Kent, new to the restorative justice scheme.

SO JUST WHAT DOES IT ENTAIL?

THE process aims to bring together those who have been harmed by crime or conflict and those responsible for that harm. Police, the offender and victim have the chance to communicate in a number of ways:

- **A face-to-face meeting – sometimes called a restorative conference or victim offender conference – involving a trained facilitator, the victim, the offender and supporters, usually family members. Professionals, such as social workers, and representatives**

can also be involved.

- **A community conference, involving members of the community affected by a particular crime – for example anti-social behaviour – and all or some of the offenders.**
- **In-direct communication – sometimes called 'shuttle RJ' or 'shuttle mediation' – involves a trained facilitator passing messages back and forth between the victim, offender and supporters, who do not meet. This approach can lead to a face-to-face meeting at a later stage.**

victim recover from the impact of the crime and to ensure the offender understands the implications of his or her actions and provide an opportunity to make amends.

In order to provide this service in all magistrates' courts across the

county, eligibility for the scheme is limited to offences of domestic burglary and assault.

These offence types were selected as research suggests RJ is particularly effective in such cases, for both victims and offenders.

It is not possible to offer this

opportunity to all victims of crime as we do not have the resources to do so.

However, focus on a limited list of eligible offence types ensures victims across the county can be offered an opportunity to participate in RJ interventions.

In appropriate cases, Kent magistrates can agree a four-week adjournment to enable independent and objective assessment by qualified facilitators to ensure victim and offender readiness and suitability.

Only if both parties are willing and able to engage in the intervention will a proposal be made for a deferment of sentence to enable the intervention to take place.

This is not a diversion from the judicial process but a part of it.

The Kent pathfinder uses existing expertise within the criminal justice service and other sectors to ensure appropriate referrals and the delivery of quality restorative justice interventions by the use of trained and experienced staff and facilitators.

Restorative justice 'important for the rehabilitation process'

KENT Police can deliver restorative justice and it was Sergeant Jim Watson, who leads the use of restorative practice at the force, who set up the meeting between Irené Crombie and John with the help of Kent Probation.

"As a convicted burglar, it is only right John serves a prison sentence that reflects the seriousness of the crime," said Sergeant Watson.

"However, it was really encouraging that he was willing to meet one of his victims and understand what effect his actions had on Irené and her husband.

"This understanding is really important for the rehabilitation process and in helping him turn his back on crime and never having to serve another prison sentence."

HM Prison Service and Kent

Probation assisted in setting up the meeting.

Sergeant Watson continued: "This is part of the Kent Criminal Justice Board's joined up approach to restorative justice, where it is the aspiration for more such conferences to take place in conjunction with criminal justice proceedings to increase victim and offender empathy, satisfaction and control."

Chief Constable Ian Learmonth added: "Restorative justice is not only proven to reduce re-offending, but also offers victims the opportunity to speak to the offender, and get answers to questions that they understandably will have, in a controlled environment.

"It is a technique that we will continue to use when both the victim and the offender agree."



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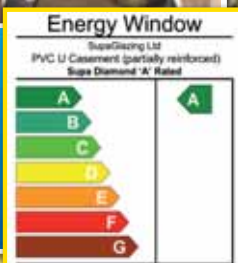
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Did political pressure stop commission removing Isle of Grain from airport plans?

Marijke Cox reports on this week's decision not to shelve proposals for an airport being built in the Thames Estuary – dashing the hopes that finally this spectre, which has loomed over the region for decades, may at last be exorcised

AS PEOPLE in north Kent breathed a collective sigh of relief that a Thames Estuary airport had – for the time being – been shelved, the question of why it remains an option at all has become something of a mystery.

Opponents of the controversial scheme were left scratching their heads on Tuesday morning when the Davies Commission announced it had not included an estuary airport on its interim list of options – but was still going to look into the Grain proposal.

It means the contentious plan could still be included in the list of recommendations to the Government. A final decision on how to solve the south east's lack of capacity is expected in the summer of 2015.

The independent commission, led by economist Sir Howard Davies, received more than 50 suggestions, including expansion at existing

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STILL ON THE RADAR: The Davies Commission will look into the feasibility of building Lord Foster's design for an airport on the Isle of Grain, pictured above, which could cost up to £112bn

airports and several plans for a Thames Estuary airport.

While 'Boris Island' – a six-runway airport on reclaimed land in the estuary backed by London Mayor Boris Johnson – was scrapped in favour of possible expansion at Heathrow or Gatwick, the commission stated it would still be examining plans for an airport in Grain on the Hoo Peninsula.

"The commission has not shortlisted any of the Thames Estuary options because there are too many uncertainties and challenges surrounding them at this stage," a commission spokesman said.

"It will undertake further study of the Isle of Grain option in the first half of 2014, and will reach a view later next year on whether that option offers a credible proposal for consideration alongside the other shortlisted options."

It means for people living on the Hoo Peninsula yet more uncertainty.

MP for Rochester and Strood Mark Reckless vowed to fight on to get the estuary plan ruled out once and for all.

He also hinted at "improper political pressure" and stressed he would be asking "further questions" to clarify how this latest decision was made.

The Tory MP said: "I welcome the fact that a Thames Estuary airport has not been shortlisted, but I am concerned the commission's study of a Grain option next year will cause further unnecessary blight and worry for local residents."

"I am also concerned that improper political pressure from London's mayor, or from within government, on an independent commission may have led to 'further study' of a Grain option, rather than it being ruled out in the interim report, as I believe it should have been."



MASTERMIND: Boris Johnson had idea for airport in Thames Estuary

He remains confident, however, that any further study will simply highlight what he believes is an "unworkable, pie in the sky proposal".

He added: "In particular, I note that Sir Howard Davies has said this proposal cannot be taken forward under environmental legislation if there are other plausible options, and that it would cost an almost unimaginably large amount, £82-112 billion – more than five times the cost of the other options shortlisted."

Campaigner George Crozer, of Friends of the North Kent Marshes, said it was "ludicrous" the estuary scheme had not been scrapped in its entirety.

Mr Crozer was instrumental in the 2002 campaign to see the previous Thames Estuary airport proposal, that time in Cliffe, buried.

But it has come back to haunt him.

"It's a bit like déjà vu," he told KoS.

"For us, it's bittersweet. On the one hand, they've dropped the outer Thames Estuary plan, but they are still going to look at Grain, even though it's the same as the one at Cliffe – they're only two miles apart."

"The one saving grace is the Davies Commission has mentioned the European protection of the area. That is fundamental and the crux of our argument. This area has more protection than the New Forest."

The Thames Estuary and marshes is a designated Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site – recognising internationally important wetlands – due to its biodiversity, including birds and rare plants and invertebrate species.

It means strict legal requirements with any development.

Mr Crozer continued: "In our small way we need to try and put the north Kent marshes in the hearts and minds of the British

people. It's hard because it's a wilderness.

"I took a small plane ride over the area and you see London and then this huge expanse of flat land and people probably think, why not?"

"I admit, I don't want this here, it's in my backyard. But it's also in the nation's backyard. We've got to give nature a chance."

He warned the already staggering cost to build the airport – around £80bn and upwards for Foster and Partners' four-runway hub plan at Grain – would grow substantially due to legal challenges by environmental organisations, which would also delay any project.

"When [Sir Howard] Davies got hold of it we were pleased that someone intelligent and independent would be looking at it properly – someone who would recognise the protection in place," Mr Crozer said.

"I just hope there is no political pressure there – Davies did meet with Boris Johnson before the announcement. If there was, we would

want an inquiry into the decision."

In Medway, political parties have united in opposition.

"We shall continue to fight as we have been up to this point," said Rodney Chambers, leader of Medway Council.

His political rivals, Labour's Vince Maple and the Lib Dem's Geoff Juby, also threw their weight behind the fight.

Cllr Maple said: "This announcement will have a real and genuine impact on people not just on the peninsula, but across Medway."

"They will have another year of an uncertain future. It is very unfortunate that we've got this halfway house situation."

"It is positive to see there is no Kent airport

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Week ending December 22, 2013 **15**



NOT SUCH PLANE SAILING:
This London Britannia Airport proposal of a floating hub was shelved by the commission

PLAN THAT JUST WON'T FLY AWAY

TEN years ago, a passionate group of campaigners celebrated overturning plans to build a giant airport at Cliffe on the Hoo Peninsula.

But it wasn't the first plan to have been mooted.

Similar schemes have been rejected by governments through the years: in 1954, then again in 1967, and most recently in 2003.

And that is not including a proposal for Sheppey in the 1960s and the high-profile Maplin Sands – on the Essex side of the estuary – in the 1970s.

Despite it being continuously thrown out, it just won't go away.

George Crozer, of Friends of the North Kent Marshes, has been fighting plans for years.

"A plan like [Lord] Foster's is a constant blight on the lives of people in Grain and All Hallows and that area; a constant uncertainty.

"In 2003, when Labour's Alistair Darling said there would be no airport in the Thames Estuary, everybody celebrated, we were cracking out the Champagne, we were euphoric.

"But we won't be doing that again next time. This keeps coming back. You can trace it to 1947, when there was a plan to build an airport here."

Chris Corrigan, the RSPB's London and south east director, added: "The spectre of an airport being built in this important landscape has haunted us all for more than 60 years. The time has now come to exorcise it."

« PAGE 15

option on the shortlist, but it is still an option that could be there in the future, so we will continue to work very hard to ensure that the Davies Commission knows moving forward that any estuary option is bad for UK plc, bad for the environment and bad for Medway."

Cross-party support was seen across the county, questioning the decision, with politicians vowing to work together to see the plan scrapped.

Former Gillingham MP and transport minister, Paul Clark, who will be contesting the seat again at the 2015 election for Labour, called it a "grave" day for Medway.

Tory leader of KCC, Paul Carter,

said he would continue to express the "101 very good reasons" why the Grain proposal is not viable.

But he showed some confidence it would be shelved in favour of expansion at Heathrow – something Boris Johnson is strongly against.

After Tuesday's announcement Mr Johnson continued to plug his estuary dream.

He said: "A new airport in the inner estuary is the only credible hub option left. By keeping it on the table, Davies is saying you have a choice between a damaging U-turn [on Heathrow] or a radical new vision for expansion."

While popular opinion in the county is to deride the estuary plan, campaign group Demand Regeneration in North Kent (Drink) believes it could open the door to huge opportu-

nities for the area.

Campaign director Clive Lawrence told us: "This airport will create tens of thousands of well-paid jobs and generate £100 million a year for Medway Council to spend on things like primary schools, of which we have some of the worst in the country.

"House prices will go up. It would be fantastic."

He said while he was pleased with the commission's announcement, he admitted it meant more uncertainty for residents.

"People have been messed around for years. I have written to communities and local government secretary Eric Pickles and MP Mark Reckless asking that, as a gesture, houses in Grain don't pay any council tax between now and when the decision is

made. They have been living with complete uncertainty for years and it's not fair."

Mr Lawrence said all negative factors involved in building a hub airport in the estuary – such as damage to the environment – were "soluble", adding, "this won't be built overnight, we're talking 15 years or more so there's time to sort out issues."

But the RSPB pointed out the tidal mudflats, saltmarsh and reed beds lining the estuary were one of the most important wildlife habitats in Europe, home to a rich ecosystem including hundreds of thousands of birds.

"To destroy such an important area for wildlife in order to build an airport would be adding environmental insult

to climate injury for the estuary," said Chris Corrigan, the RSPB's London and south east director.

"Sir Howard acknowledges this, so it is disappointing that he feels the need to drag out the inevitable ditching of the scheme.

"The RSPB, the people of north Kent and south Essex and a growing coalition of concerned groups won't rest until the estuary is safe from unsuitable development."

He added: "On the doorstep of our capital city we have an ancient and irreplaceable habitat teeming with life; from eelgrass beds and rare insects to the oystercatchers and dunlin which travel thousands of miles from the frozen north each winter.

"The Thames Estuary's big landscape is our Serengeti."

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County's starring role in

As most of us settle down for a week of indulging in TV and movies, **Chris Britcher** considers 10 of the best-loved names with a strong connection to Kent whose career has seen them rise to the top of the entertainment world

THE county has long since proved to be a honey-pot for those with a creative bent.

Through the generations it has attracted the likes of Charles Dickens, Ian Fleming, Noel Coward and HG Wells.

But it has also proved a fertile ground for some of the all-time great thespians.

We take a look at 10 of the very best – but let us know what you think.

Write and share your views to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeth, Ashford TN25 6SS. Or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

1 Peter Cushing

ONE of the legends of the silver screen, Peter Cushing portrayed some of the most chilling characters of his era with roles in the hugely popular Hammer Horror movies. But off screen he was considered one of the industry's great gentlemen.

His roll of honour included portraying Dr Van Helsing and Baron Frankenstein,



while he also played legendary sleuth Sherlock Holmes and even Doctor Who in a big screen version of the popular TV show.

His career continued long into old age. He made memorable appearances on *Morecambe and Wise*, and sparked a whole new fanbase as Grand Moff Tarkin in the original *Star Wars* movie.

He lived for much of his life in Whitstable, moving there in 1959, in a seafront home he shared with his wife. A popular figure about the town, he would love to sit and paint the view along the beach. Cushing's View today marks the spot he so adored, while the town's museum has a permanent section devoted to him. He passed away in 1994 in Canterbury. He was 81.

2 Daniel Day Lewis

IN February of this year, Daniel Day Lewis picked up his third Academy Award for his portrayal of Abraham Lincoln in Steven Spielberg's celebrated *Lincoln*.

The glitz and the glamour of that Los Angeles night was a very long way from a childhood spent at the private Sevenoaks School as a boarder.

The actor has admitted he hated the experience, after being sent there by his father, the poet laureate Cecil Day Lewis.

He lasted a mere two years before running away and being relocated.

But it formed a key part of his formative years and introduced him to acting, fishing and woodwork, all of which would be life-long passions.

Roles in *My Left Foot* and *There Will Be Blood* also secured Oscars, and his trophy cabinet is crammed with awards for movies such as *Gangs of New York* and *The Boxer*.

So seriously does he take the roles he accepts, he will frequently stay in character during the entire filming process.



3 Naomi Watts

WHEN a young Naomi Watts watched her mother perform in an amateur dramatics production in Shoreham, near Sevenoaks, it would inspire her to become one of Hollywood's top leading ladies and receive nominations for two Oscars.

Her CV includes starring roles in the big-money remake of *King Kong*, tsunami epic *The Impossible*, David Lynch's acclaimed *Mulholland Drive*, Clint Eastwood's biopic *J*



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actors' route to very top

Edgar and the drama 21 Grams. She is now 45.

4 Orlando Bloom
GROWING up in Canterbury – where his mother still lives – the young actor got his big break when he was cast as Legolas in the Lord of the Rings trilogy – a role which would elevate him to global success.



He was then hired for another massive money-spinning franchise, Pirates of the Caribbean, appearing as Will Turner alongside Johnny Depp.

His fame assured, he recently branched out into theatre, appearing on Broadway in Romeo and Juliet to rave reviews. Now 36 and hitting the big screen again in The Hobbit movies, he retains close links to the county.

5 Brenda Blethyn
A STAR of the big and small screen, and stage, Brenda Blethyn, 67, is considered one of our finest actresses with a host of awards and two nominations for an Academy Award under her belt.



Born and raised as one of nine in a working-class home in Ramsgate

– a town she still holds close to her heart – she made her name on the stage and then appeared in movies such as The Witches and A River Runs Through It, before the critically acclaimed Secret & Lies and Little Voice.

6 John Le Mesurier
HE will forever be known as Sgt Arthur Wilson in TV comedy favourite Dad's Army, but like so many of the cast, he was in the twilight of what had been a successful career.



While he may not have taken the lead role in many, his face was familiar having appeared in more than 120 films through a career which was interrupted by the Second World War.

He appeared alongside Alec Guinness on stage, Peter Sellers in film and Tony Hancock on TV. He also received plaudits for his role in Dennis Potter's Traitor.

He lived in Ramsgate, first with wife Hattie Jacques and then with his third wife, Joan. His grave is in the town. He died in 1983, aged 71.

7 Pam Ferris
FOR several years Pam Ferris, 65, has escaped the shackles of her remarkably successful career in the beautiful landscape of Elham, between Canterbury and Folkestone.

No stranger to the county, she became a household name with her leading role as Ma Larkin in ITV's enormous hit, the Darling Buds of May – filmed in Pluckley, near Ashford.

Since then she has become an assurance of quality with major roles in TV drama Rosemary and Thyme and now Call the Midwife, as well as a memorable role in hard-hitting TV drama Luther.



8 Tom Baker
HE remains, for a whole generation, their favourite Doctor Who – and is destined to be synonymous with the character at the very height of its fame.



Mr Baker lived for many years in Boughton Monchelsea, near Maidstone, and now resides in Tunbridge Wells. He is a familiar sight in and around the town.

Over the years he has had roles in productions as diverse as Blackadder II, the Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer remake of Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased) and as the distinctive voice of comedy series Little Britain. He is 79.

9 Mackenzie Crook
BORN in Maidstone and raised in Dartford, Mackenzie Crook would be catapulted to stardom in 2001, when he took on the role of Gareth Keenan in hit TV comedy The Office, alongside Ricky Gervais.



He would go on to join Orlando Bloom in Pirates of the Caribbean and, most recently, starred in the hit TV show Game of Thrones.

Now 42, he has also published two children's books.

10 Hattie Jacques
ONE of the great comedic actresses of her generation, she made her name in comedy, with roles in the hugely successful Carry On films, before roles alongside the likes of Tony Hancock and Peter Sellers.



She went on to enjoy huge success and household name status, appearing alongside Eric Sykes in his popular TV show.

She was married to John Le Mesurier and the two shared a home in Ramsgate. She died in 1980 of a heart attack. She was just 58.

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Ghosts of Christmas past that

Mark Connelly, professor of modern British history at the University of Kent, looks at the evolution of



CHRISTMAS is a chameleon; over the centuries it has evolved and absorbed a myriad influences to become the festival we know today.

In large part its success is due to an amazing ability to adapt and thus maintain its cultural supremacy.

This throws up another important point; the extent to which Christmas has evolved into a cultural phenomenon distinct from its religious root.

Even here the riddle that is Christmas refuses an easy answer, for the Christian aspect of Christmas is itself a grafting onto a much older set of traditions answering important human needs.

The early Church paid no attention to the birth of Christ, which was a mere prologue detail to his ministry, death and resurrection.

As Christianity spread through the Roman Empire, it competed with a range of pagan festivals and observances. Of particular significance to the evolution of Christmas was the prevalence of mid-winter festivals centred on the themes of regeneration, indulgence, light and inversions of order.

Although shunning all such traditions, in the fourth century, Julius I, Bishop of Rome, established an alternative celebration of Christ's birth.

From this point Christmas quickly adapted these pre-existing customs and found it relatively easy to integrate them into a Christian message.

The veneration of light in mid-winter as a symbol of regeneration was rapidly assimilated and the inversion of normal order, as seen in the Roman Saturnalia [festival in honor of the deity Saturn], was turned into God made a weak, vulnerable, dependent baby.

Perhaps the hardest to curb was the sense of licence to indulge in feasting and drinking, but this too could be transformed into a form of joyous hospitality celebrating brotherhood. Nonetheless, well into the early Middle Ages, the Christian Christmas struggled to 'domesticate' the wilder elements of paganism, particularly the Nordic Yule traditions.

Undaunted, the medieval church maintained its efforts to stamp out the pagan elements, or more accurately Christianise them.

Holly, for example, was carefully transplanted from its Celtic associations with the spirits of summer and thus a counterweight to winter, to become symbolic of eternal life, the sharp leaves a reminder of the crown of thorns, and the red berries the blood of Christ spilt to liberate the world.

In England, Christmas was well-established by the advent of the Tudor dynasty and many of the traditions we maintain today were in evidence.

A deep reaction set in during the Commonwealth when Cromwell denounced Christmas as a popish-heathen practice and took firm steps to banish it.

However, eradicating Christmas completely was a difficult task, especially as the English-speaking world was now so disparate with large new communities in North America.

From this point, distinctive, but not entirely separate, American traditions began to emerge.

This was of great importance, for

“ The war and the austerity of the late-1940s and early-1950s slowed down the commercialisation of Christmas, but did not stop it altogether ”

Prof Connelly, on the changing face of our winter traditions

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shaped present-day festivities

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A NEW CLAUS: Today's Christmas is a far cry from the pagan festivals from which it spawned, encompassing many influences throughout its history

the 19th century saw the beginnings of a reconnection between the Christmas traditions of the independent United States with those of Britain, and more particularly, England. This leads us to a much-repeated 'fact' about Christmas, namely that it was invented by the Victorians and Charles Dickens, in particular. While there is no doubting the Victorians, partly inspired by Dickens, were fascinated by the celebration of

Christmas, rather than invent it lock, stock and barrel, they reinvigorated it and brought together the many, some decaying, Christmas customs and threw themselves into the season in a way not seen before. **B**eing a nation of manufacturers, industrialists and shopkeepers, it was not long before Victorians realised the season, with its emphasis on generosity

and hospitality, could be exploited for commercial possibilities. With the growth of a department store culture in Britain from the 1870s, the scene was set for a fusion of sentiment and shopping to descend every year in late November, and it wasn't long before some began to complain. However, curbing the commercial pressure was impossible and it looks unlikely to be reversed. The Second World War and the austerity years of the late-1940s and early-1950s slowed down the commercialisation of Christmas, but certainly did not stop it altogether. Then, as rationing was relaxed in the 1950s and Britons entered a period in which they 'had never had it so good', according to Prime Minister Harold Macmillan's famous phrase, the spending spree recommenced fuelled by the power of commercial television. Despite this remorseless commercialisation and the immense changes British society has experienced during the last 50 or so years, Christmas remains a key focal point of the year. In a world which seems to spin with ever greater speed meaning more and more people feel disoriented and dislocated, Christmas appears a constant and reassuring example that some things never change.



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IF YOU wish to celebrate the Christian aspect of the festive season then where better than the heart of the Church of England, and Canterbury Cathedral. While tickets to the most popular carol concert have sold out, there is still a chance to soak in the cathedral's remarkable atmosphere this week. **December 23 – Service of Carols for Christmas:** Event runs from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. You

do not need to book in advance, but the service is strictly on a first come, first served basis. Doors open at 6pm. Entry is free. **December 24 – Service of Carols for Christmas:** Event runs from 3pm to 5pm. Entry is strictly by pre-booked ticket only. All tickets, which were free, have already been allocated. However, the service the day before will be identical, giving those who missed out the chance to attend.

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Profile

IT'S often easier to cross the road to avoid a rough sleeper than make awkward eye-contact. Easier, sadly, to dismiss homeless people as the lower echelons of society, a group of troubled people with whom we sympathise, but with whom most of us have little contact.

Collectively turning our backs, we are busy trying to cope with what our own lives throw at us.

And rocked by one of the worst economic slumps this country has seen, it is no wonder.

But at Christmas it's as though a penny drops. Many of us look around at those less fortunate and see with sudden, crystal-clear clarity how lucky we are.

That constant battle to better what we have seems insignificant when we have perhaps the greatest luxury of all; a roof over our heads and a family to share it with.

It is worth remembering every person sleeping in a doorway or begging is someone's daughter, someone's son.

In truth, all of us are just a crisis away from becoming like them.

But rough sleepers are just one part of a worrying problem with homelessness.

As a whole it encompasses much more than people living on the streets, but destitution in general: people broken mentally, physically and emotionally, lives in tatters, no job, a dysfunctional family, no home.

For Mike Barrett, chief executive of Kent homelessness charity Porchlight, he has spent the best part of his

life trying to help fix the problem.

Growing up on a council estate in south London, his father was a social worker and so as a young boy he saw first hand the problems faced by so many.

"It was probably my first introduction into this type of work. I think this is why I took this route," he said.

"I served in the Royal Navy for a number of years when I left college, but I always felt I wanted to do something else, so I did a bit of volunteering and when I came out I went into social care, the probation service, that kind of thing.

"But I felt there was more to do, particularly with people needing accommodation, so that's how I got into this."

Now aged 59 and living in Paddock Wood, he has been head of Porchlight for 16 years.

The charity, formerly known as the Canterbury Cyrenians and then East Kent Cyrenians, supports vulnerable and homeless people in Kent.

It has supported accommodation services in Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Ramsgate, Sittingbourne and Tonbridge, a homelessness prevention service and a dedicated rough-sleeper team.

Despite the recession – less funding coupled with an increase in people needing help – the charity has grown and has continued to do so steadily in recent years.

"The board of directors took the decision not to expand for expansion sake, but where we thought there was a real need and where we could

make a positive difference," he said.

"About three or four years ago we decided to diversify, not away from homelessness, but alongside our crisis intervention services where we're working with people off the streets or young people who are becoming homeless.

"So we operate accommodation services and other associated services, like employment and training programmes."

The aim, he says, is to break the cycle of homelessness.

"If we can't break that cycle, that person is just going to go round and round," he said.

"From a societal point of view that's damaging anyway, but it's also very expensive.

"Every time someone goes through that process their condition, their mental health, their physical health deteriorates and it becomes much more expensive to treat, so part of our ethos is to break that cycle.

"The best way to do that is to help them challenge their lifestyle and get back into employment, or employment for the first time, get into training, into college – to give them some hope and aspiration."

Preventative services, he says, have become a major part of the charity's focus.

But keeping the momentum isn't easy, he admits, with cuts to funding.

"It's a real paradox because there is more need for the services, but the money is much harder to come across," he said.

"What money was available in

Picture: ADY KERRY



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Battling to end vicious cycle of our homeless

Marijke Cox talks to Mike Barrett, chief executive of the homeless charity Porchlight, who is fighting against overwhelming adds to help the ever-increasing number of people who are being forced to live on our streets.

“ The best way to do that is to help them get back into employment, or employment for the first time, into college – to give them some hope and aspiration ”

Mike Barrett, on how Porchlight aims to change homeless lifestyle

terms of grants from Government has been cut. It may not have been cut at the source, at central government, but it's certainly been slashed when it's got to local government because local authorities are between this rock and hard place – they are broke.

“Local authorities are practically insolvent, so they have to be very careful about how they spend their money.”

“We've got a situation now where we have diminishing contract values and an increasing need to grow our fundraising at a time when charities are being, quite rightly, scrutinised, but also being expected to raise funds themselves for a much more competitive market. That's very difficult.”

But that is not the hardest part.

With the introduction of the controversial welfare reforms – brought in to tackle what the Coalition described as a benefit culture and to stop people becoming trapped in the welfare system – Mr Barrett says there has been a rise in homelessness and people falling into debt; an increase of desperate families seeking

help through foodbanks and other support services.

The reforms include the contentious universal credit in which six working-age benefits were merged into one: paid once a month rather than fortnightly or weekly; and paid directly into the claimant's bank account.

It means a change in the way they manage their money – and a lot more responsibility on their shoulders.

In essence, and rightly, it aims to make people learn how to be more self-sufficient and how to be responsible with finances.

But that in itself causes problems, particularly for those who struggle to read or write or do not have the basic life skills most of us take for granted.

It has, critics say, pushed many into debt.

The bedroom tax is another reform which has been shrouded in contention.

The new rules see housing benefit claimants – living in either council or housing association properties – who are deemed to have too much living space forced to downsize. Otherwise they have their benefits reduced.

Ministers say it encourages people to downsize to smaller properties, and in doing so will help cut the £23 billion annual bill for housing benefit and free-up living space for overcrowded families.

But critics say it is resulting in pushing people into rent arrears and, in worst cases, homelessness.

One problem in Kent is people living in London are moving out of the city to take advantage of cheaper rent

PAGE 24 »

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SOCIETY ON THE EDGE: More and more people are being forced into homelessness due to economic pressures and changes to welfare benefit

in this county and taking up much-needed rental housing, meaning cash-strapped local families in houses deemed too big are unable to find smaller properties while at the same time their housing benefit is reduced.

Mr Barrett admits he has to remind himself not to rant too much about the welfare reforms.

But he is clearly angry at what he says has been a system introduced "too fast and deep".

"The welfare reforms are causing huge problems particularly for poor people," he said.

"When I say poor people I don't mean people who are not working either. More than 55 per cent of benefit recipients are at work.

"The Government says it wants to get people off benefits.

"Well, they're not going to get people off benefits unless they can get employers to open up and say why they can't take people on full-time because people are in low-paid employment – and most of that is part time – and they are desperate to work 35-40 hours a week. They'd love to do that, but they can't get the jobs."

He stressed that there are people sleeping on the streets who are in fact working, but can't afford rent levels.

“ But what's not seen behind that closed door is mum, on her own, struggling to keep down eight to 15 hours work a week and that's all she can get because she's got childcare responsibilities ”

Mike Barrett, Porchlight chief executive on how families are struggling to cope

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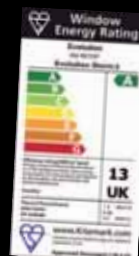
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Mr Barrett also pointed out that more and more landlords are refusing to take on people claiming benefits.

"You've got this vicious circle," he said.

"There are new rules that came in April around people under the age of 35 who do not qualify for rent levels associated with a one-bedroom flat or bedsit.

"So they have to go into a shared house. You've got people who want to work, who are working and the only accommodation they can get, if they're lucky, is a room in a shared house.

"They are going to be sharing with people from different backgrounds, some who are very vulnerable, some who are difficult, some who have very challenging problems."

He added: "The whole thing is stacking up to make the problem of addressing homelessness virtually impossible in the long run.

"But it's also stacking up a massive and hugely expensive problem for the Government further down the line and it's very hard to get this message across."

It is a hard message, particularly with the thorny issue of benefits and cash-strapped households not on welfare becoming resentful towards those claiming help from the state.

"This wasn't helped by the rhetoric coming out of the Coalition in the early days when everyone on benefits was painted as a scrounger and lazy," said Mr Barrett.

"That was picked up on and we've had people who have been subject to abuse because they are benefit claimants.

"But what is not seen behind that closed door is mum, on her own, struggling to keep down eight to 15 hours work a week and that's all she can get because she's got childcare responsibilities.

"And where there is a couple with children, usually one or both of them are working. But they're earning £6.50 an hour, the minimum wage, which doesn't cover heat, light, rent, food and clothing and everything else that goes with modern life. It is impossible for them to get out of that benefit trap."

Sadly, children are also suffering abuse.

"Some of the children we work with have reported to frontline staff they don't want to go to school because they get laughed at, because, for example, they have got a cheap bag.

"Other children find out that the parents are on benefits so they're called 'scroungers' and 'chavs'.

"It is incredibly painful some of the stories and more has got to be done."

Families, Mr Barrett says, come under huge pressure, particularly when the threat of losing the home becomes imminent.

"What's been known for decades about homelessness is the sheer pressure, stress and fatigue that goes through a family unit when they have lost their home and a lot of the time has a catastrophic effect on that family.

"So, out of every homeless family it is not unusual to see a family breakdown, and then what usually happens is that mum will keep the kids so she and the children will be housed – I'm not saying adequately, but they'll be housed – and dad or the male partner will be out.

"And that could be through domestic violence, it could be a nervous breakdown, it could be that they've just had enough."

Ultimately, that person will end up without a home and is not seen as an emergency case to be housed.

"Again you've got this cycle of human cost," said Mr Barrett.

The charity works with GPs, social services and schools to try and help get to the root of many of the problems causing homelessness.

But it also helps troubled families to try and prevent such problems later in life, such as making sure children go to school.

"With the older age range of our service user group, with every one of them you can trace back to when their problems started and that was when they were very young, either in care or living within a dysfunctional family setting."

A project has also been set up working with



FEARS FOR THE FUTURE OVER GROWING PROBLEMS

PORCHLIGHT, like other organisations, has been unable to avoid the squeeze on spending seen since the recession hit.

The charity, which relies on donations, government grants and fundraising, has taken a huge hit in funding which is reflected in its resources.

"Just over a year ago we had about 30 people working on the streets in Kent and that's now down to four," Mr Barrett said.

"The grants aren't there. So what's happening, at the worst

possible time, when numbers are growing, is that resources are being squeezed.

"We cannot let the people who we were set up to help, down.

"Everything else, the structure of society and the causes of homelessness, are on the increase. If we back off from that then we're selling people short and we're also selling the ethos of this charity short so that's not going to happen.

"Funding will be incredibly hard to get, but we will find

some way of addressing the problems of the people in Kent and wherever else we work."

He admits, however, his fears for the future.

"There will be some things that we can't do. My fear is we'll see the suicide rate increase and see rough sleeping increase further. They are my concerns.

"It's a very frustrating position but because of the people we've helped and the staff teams, Porchlight is an inspirational place to work."

Oak & Pine WINTER SALE

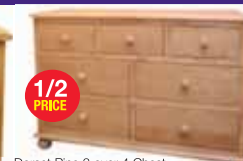
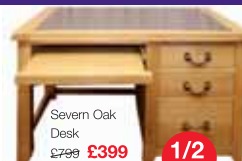
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Give the gift of food this Christmas as figures show rise in UK foodbanks

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has appealed to Christmas shoppers to give money to the growing network of foodbanks rather than splash out on expensive gifts this year.

It follows the release of shocking figures showing the number of people using foodbanks – where deprived families are given basic supplies – trebling in the past year to 350,000 nationally.

Green MEP for the south east, Keith Taylor, revealed in his 'Hungry Christmas' report, that in Kent alone the seven foodbanks, run by the Trussell Trust and one other organisation, showed an alarming rise: from 191 people

helped in 2011/12 to 7,015 in 2013.

Mr Taylor said: "Foodbanks are a lifeline to people in desperate need and, sadly, they are one of Britain's few booming industries."

"Across the UK demand for emergency food is soaring while peoples' wages stagnate and the cost of living shoots up."

"Some will say that poverty is inevitable, no matter what you do."

"Greens reject this. For us, poverty is political and its elimination will always be a top priority."

"I believe there's often a reluctance to seek charity in this country – that so many see no alternative is a damning indictment of government policy."



Deeper understanding needed for our homeless to get them back into society

IT'S easy to feel intimidated when walking past a group of homeless people.

But it's natural for rough sleepers to congregate, not only to try and stay safe, but to stave off the isolation homelessness would otherwise bring.

Mike Barrett said: "The street has its own culture; homeless people will congregate because they feel safer."

"They will then come up with strategies to survive. Some of that includes alcohol and drugs and that slippery spiral descends into real destitution and physical ill-health. If there are underlying mental health issues they will be

exacerbated beyond belief.

"So by the time we pick them up, they're not only homeless, they have a medical problem, they have a dependency, they are scarred emotionally from whatever drove them there as well as their experiences on the street and we need to try and rebuild them."

"It's not something that can happen overnight. There needs to be a deeper understanding of the culture of homelessness and what happens to somebody when they become homeless."

"It's a devastating experience. It takes lives. Those people need to be helped back into society."

« PAGE 25

GPs to ensure that all-important prevention is taking place.

"We identified, through a pilot in Thanet, that people going to the doctors with what appeared to be low-grade depression were actually struggling with tenancy issues, debt issues, relationship breakdown and some of the GPs said all they could do was throw Prozac at them which wasn't helping."

"So now we work on a very practical level with the people who are struggling. It's very preventative."

"We still have the crisis services, so

we work with people for up to two years to get them through that and normally people stay with us [in supported accommodation] between six to eight months."

In a county like Kent, often viewed as the richer relative to areas, say, in inner city London or the north east of England, it's often difficult to highlight the poverty on our doorstep.

"Overall if you compare us with other areas we're much better off, but that doesn't mean to say we haven't got a problem – and it's growing," said Mr Barrett.

"There are some parts here which are incredibly poor."

"They are mostly hidden because

that's the way people have to exist."

"We try and concentrate on the areas where there is a real need, and that usually follows deprivation and poverty. It's a massive driver for homelessness, for criminality, for mental breakdowns, for domestic abuse."

"All of the ills that have led to people becoming homeless in the past are centred around poverty."

Porchlight's outreach team, which works directly with people sleeping rough, is currently working with about 130-150 people on the street.

But Mr Barrett said that does not reflect the true extent of the problem.

"Those numbers do not include the people we can't get to. You've got sofa

surfers, essentially those people who are spending a night or two on a friend's floor."

"Over Christmas, when people have family round or they go to family, they can no longer stay there and so they find themselves out."

This time of year particularly brings home the plight of those who have nothing.

It is also a high-risk season when other issues are thrown into the mix, such as an increase in alcohol consumption, stress and high tensions which can lead to domestic abuse and family breakdowns.

Mr Barrett said it's easy to point the

finger of blame on the individuals.

But he appealed to the people of Kent to show compassion.

"I'd like to say thank you to the people that give because they are incredibly generous. But I would also say when you see a homeless person or somebody on benefits who is struggling, please don't assume that it's a self-inflicted condition."

"A lot of the time it's circumstances that have driven them there."

"They are people just like you and I; they have feelings, they want to be treated with respect and dignity and it's vitally important we see them as part of our community and not some blot on our societal landscape."

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SUE young at heart female, very
adventurous and looking for no
strings fun with mature man. Tel No: **0906 515 7112** Box No: **409251**

SAM 35yrs, own business,
sexy, loves dressing up and
married, seeks discreet man for
casual meetings. Can travel
anywhere. ACA. Tel No: **0905
002 1960** Box No: **408297**

JAN 38yr old attractive lonely
female, looking for
uncomplicated fun times only.
Status unimportant. Tel No: **0906 515 7112** Box No: **409107**

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who loves animals and the
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FLO beautiful educated
European blonde, articulate,
seeking similar intelligent well-
mannered mature gent to enjoy
socialising, conversing and
quality times. Tel No: **0906 515
7112** Box No: **408293**

BLONDE female, 5ft 11in, size
12, likes meals out, drinks,
nights in, walks, seeks male. Tel No: **0906 515 7112** Box No: **409025**

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solvent lady, young 50's, likes
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of high calibre. Tel No: **0906 515
7112** Box No: **405707**

JOYCE 83, widow, W/LTM gent
with GSOH for days out, friendship,
companionship, maybe more. Tel No: **0906 515 7112** Box No: **393067**

REBECCA kind, caring, honest,
lonely, seeking older gent to wine
and dine me. Tel No: **0906 515
7112** Box No: **402273**

DELILAH 49, likes animals,
blonde, blue eyes, seeking older
gent, late 70's who is kind and
willing to care about me. Tel No: **0906 515 7112** Box No: **403769**

LISA 44, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft
6ins, nice personality, trustworthy,
kind, likes cinema, nights in, walks,
music, seeks male for friendship,
maybe more. Tel No: **0906 515
7112** Box No: **404751**

KAREN blonde, long legged, many
interests, very young looking,
outgoing, adventurous, likeable,
W/LTM my soul mate, could that be
you? Pts call me. Tel No: **0906 515
7112** Box No: **407953**

CHRIS 39yr old attractive well built
sporty lady looking for tall, happy,
well built male to enjoy adult
companionship, hopefully leading to
more. Tel No: **0906 515 7112** Box
No: **407935**

CATHY divorced independent
hopeless romantic seeking special
gent to spend really nice times
with, get to know and take it from
there. Tel No: **0906 515 7112** Box
No: **407623**

LUCY truly wonderful brunette who
really loves life, seeking sincere
male for true friendship with a little
romance thrown in for good
measure. Tel No: **0906 515 7112** Box
No: **407457**

SLIM N/S female, 54, working,
reliable, easy going, likes nature,
animals, seeks nice male
companion. 50-64 for
country/seaside walks and meals
out. Tel No: **0906 515 7112** Box
No: **405745**

ALEX 35, very attractive, slim,
blonde, caring sensitive single
mum, likes meals in/out, nice
pubs, W/LTM similar male/led to
love and care for. Tel No: **0906
515 7112** Box No: **408503**

LISA busty blonde 34yr old fun
to be with single party goer,
looking for similar male for adult
fun maybe more. Tel No: **0906
515 7112** Box No: **408289**

SOPHIE attractive hard working
female, who enjoys dancing and
good company, W/LTM loving
male to enjoy nights out and
genuine laughter. Tel No: **0906
515 7112** Box No: **408625**

MARG elegant attractive
affectionate lady who enjoys
many varied interests W/LTM
genuine male 50-60yrs for
mutual indulgences. Tel No: **0906
515 7112** Box No: **408511**

ATTRACTIVE female, 53, N/S, 5ft
6ins, looking for similar male, 50-
55 who loves countryside, animals
and is easygoing. Tel No: **0906
515 7112** Box No: **405421**

HAPPY young looking lady, 62,
likes socialising, conversation,
seeking nice man to share good
times with. Tel No: **0906 515 7112**
Box No: **407383**

DIVORCED female, 66, blue eyes,
5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair,
seeks male, 65-75 for
friendship/companionship, maybe
more. Tel No: **0906 515 7112** Box
No: **403278**

SUSAN seeking nice male,
medium build, 35, easygoing, likes
music, nights in. Tel No: **0906 515
7112** Box No: **406779**

SOPHIA beautiful, slim,
sophisticated, loves living life to the
full, enjoys many interests, seeks
generous businessman who would
appreciate a sensual woman. Tel No: **0906 515 7112** Box No: **407467**

59YR old Kent lady, bubbly, large
build, dog lover, easygoing, GSOH,
seeks male. Tel No: **0906 515
7112** Box No: **403071**

LYN happy, young looking 72yr old,
seeks male, 65 plus to
enjoy life with. Tel No: **0906 515
7112** Box No: **403101**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy,
46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs,
nights in, seeks male. Tel No: **0906
515 7112** Box No: **384852**

LUCY kind caring, honest, fuller
figured, blonde, blue eyes, 44,
looking for older man, kind, caring
and honest. Tel No: **0906 515 7112**
Box No: **395805**

80YR old black female, sociable,
seeks romantic, articulate white
male for friendship, maybe more.
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CAROLINE 60, 5ft 2ins, likes
animals, walks, travel, gardening,
seeks male. Tel No: **0906 515
7112** Box No: **402067**

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins,
likes most things in life, seeks
special male for companionship,
maybe more. Tel No: **0906 515
7112** Box No: **398391**

DAVE genuine
guy, 6ft, black
hair, blue eyes,
medium build, likes
sports, gardening,
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DOG lover short of British slim
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TALL slim male, early 40's,
seeks loving female, 29-39 to
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CHRIS 68, 5ft 9ins, 13st,
frustrated widower, likes
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gardening, cruises, looking for
companionship. Tel No: **0906
515 7112** Box No: **402271**

55YR old male, average looks,
GSOH, looking to meet similar
lady for friendship, maybe more.
Tel No: **0906 515 7112** Box No: **408227**

JAMIE 6ft 11ins, dark hair, blue
eyes, seeks female, 40-50, easy
going for no strings fun, nights in.
Tel No: **0906 515 7112** Box No: **408051**

CANTERBURY mature male,
medium build, GSOH, varied
interests, sign language
interpreter, seeks slim-medium
build female, 24-42 for LTR.
Single mum welcome. Tel No: **0906
515 7112** Box No: **405697**

SEXY fireman, looking for love
and fun. Tel No: **0906 515 7112** Box
No: **407883**

RETIRED male 68, 5ft 6ins,
considerate, GSOH, easygoing,
likes driving, shopping, most
music, seeking lady 60-70 for
friendship, Ashford. Tel No: **0906
515 7112** Box No: **404589**

PROFESSIONAL 43yr old male,
one son, bored of the same thing,
seeks lady for possible romance.
Kent. Tel No: **0906 515 7112** Box
No: **396234**

MALE 67, professional, 5ft 11ins,
medium build, reliable,
laid back, most things, seeks
slim lady, let's go! Tel No: **0906
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71YR old romantic, 6ft, likes life,
socialising, reading, strong tea,
dog, smoker but house trained
seeks mature lady needing TLC.
Tel No: **0906 515 7112** Box No: **407277**

TALL friendly, very light hearted,
single 58, seeks pretty woman for
LTR, mutual selection of activities
and choosing how to spend our
time. Croydon. Tel No: **0906 515
7112** Box No: **407147**

BLACK male, looking for 1-2-1
relationship with laid back,
understanding female. Tel No: **0906
515 7112** Box No: **406221**

STEVE 6ft 4ins, OHAC, seeking
relationship, outdoor type, homey,
wanting mutual good relationship
with sexy woman. Tel No: **0906
515 7112** Box No: **407835**

ANTHONY 48, athletic, enjoys
country walks, seeks youthful
female for friendship/relationship.
Tel No: **0906 515 7112** Box No: **407355**

LUCY kind caring, honest, fuller
figured, blonde, blue eyes, 44,
looking for older man, kind, caring
and honest. Tel No: **0906 515 7112**
Box No: **395805**

80YR old black female, sociable,
seeks romantic, articulate white
male for friendship, maybe more.
Tel No: **0906 515 7112** Box No: **402523**

CAROLINE 60, 5ft 2ins, likes
animals, walks, travel, gardening,
seeks male. Tel No: **0906 515
7112** Box No: **402067**

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins,
likes most things in life, seeks
special male for companionship,
maybe more. Tel No: **0906 515
7112** Box No: **398391**

DAVE genuine
guy, 6ft, black
hair, blue eyes,
medium build, likes
sports, gardening,
music, seeks female with
GSOH and genuine. Tel No: **0906 515 7112** Box No: **388372**

DOG lover short of British slim
petite lady to maybe get into 1-2-1
relationship and start
something new. Smoker
welcome, age immaterial.
Turbridge Wells area. Tel No: **0906 515 7112** Box No: **404417**

TALL slim male, early 40's,
seeks loving female, 29-39 to
share the nice things in life. Tel No: **0906 515 7112** Box No: **407065**

CHRIS 68, 5ft 9ins, 13st,
frustrated widower, likes
country/western music, real ale,
gardening, cruises, looking for
companionship. Tel No: **0906
515 7112** Box No: **402271**

55YR old male, average looks,
GSOH, looking to meet similar
lady for friendship, maybe more.
Tel No: **0906 515 7112** Box No: **408227**

JAMIE 6ft 11ins, dark hair, blue
eyes, seeks female, 40-50, easy
going for no strings fun, nights in.
Tel No: **0906 515 7112** Box No: **408051**

CANTERBURY mature male,
medium build, GSOH, varied
interests, sign language
interpreter, seeks slim-medium
build female, 24-42 for LTR.
Single mum welcome. Tel No: **0906
515 7112** Box No: **405697**

SEXY fireman, looking for love
and fun. Tel No: **0906 515 7112** Box
No: **407883**

RETIRED male 68, 5ft 6ins,
considerate, GSOH, easygoing,
likes driving, shopping, most
music, seeking lady 60-70 for
friendship, Ashford. Tel No: **0906
515 7112** Box No: **404589**

PROFESSIONAL 43yr old male,
one son, bored of the same thing,
seeks lady for possible romance.
Kent. Tel No: **0906 515 7112** Box
No: **396234**

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country walks, seeks youthful
female for friendship/relationship.
Tel No: **0906 515 7112** Box No: **407355**

LIGHT hearted 58yr old male, 6ft,
blue eyes, slim, lively, active,
seeks pretty woman 29-50 for fun
times. Croydon. Tel No: **0906
515 7112** Box No: **393567**

KEVIN 49, single
dad, employed, good
cook/laugh, seeks female for
fun and good times. Tel No: **0906
515 7112** Box No: **402405**

RICHARD divorced, 61, N/S,
likes classic cars, looking to meet
nice lady for meals out, days out,
friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0906
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BRIAN fun loving, easygoing,
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guy, 6ft, black
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Author is shocked by death of 'friend' Ronnie

Sadness of ex-prison warden who knew Great Train Robber Ronnie Biggs, by **Chris Murphy**

AN AUTHOR and former prison warden who became good friends with Great Train Robbery gang member Ronnie Biggs has spoken of his sorrow this week after the 84-year-old died.

Mike Gray, from Rainham, became close to the crook and headed the successful campaign for Mr Biggs to be released from prison on compassionate grounds.

Ronnie Biggs took part in the 1963 robbery of a mail train that netted the gang £2.6 million in cash – a sum worth around £46m today. Much of it was never recovered.

Mr Biggs, who famously escaped prison and fled Britain to live a playboy's life in Brazil, died early Wednesday morning at the Carlton Court Care Home in East Barnet, London.

A series of strokes left him barely able to walk. He was last seen in public in March at the funeral of fellow train robber Bruce Reynolds.

Mike Gray met Mr Biggs while he was working as a prison warden – and years later wrote a book revealing what he was really like.

He told KoS: "It is a very sad time. I was awoken at 5am on Wednesday by a phone call from a member of Ronnie's family in Barnet and although I knew his health was deteriorating, it's always a shock when it happens.

"Ronnie was never a violent criminal. His criminal CV at the time of the train robbery was 'laughable', as one ex-detective once told me.

"None of the other 15 train robbers wanted him on the job as they had never heard of him.

"I last saw Ronnie this year. It's ironic that his 84th birthday was on the same day as the train robbery's 50th anniversary this year. Since his 2009 release on compassionate grounds, his health improved simply by being surrounded by his loving family, of which I include myself in that circle.

"He, along with all the other train robbers, regretted the injury to train driver Jack Mills.

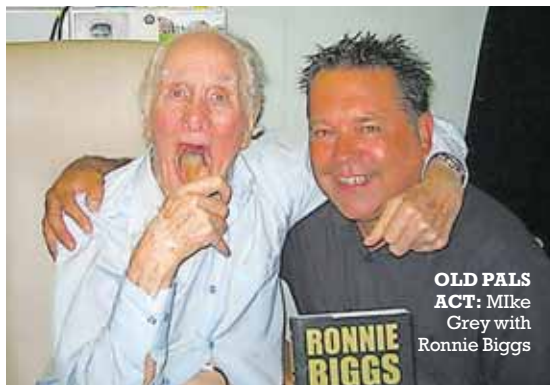
"If that had not happened, I do not believe they would have received the draconian 30-year sentences in 1964.

"Ronnie was only involved because he needed £500 to put down a deposit on a house for his wife and child as he had promised her that he was going straight. The rest is history.

"Many bigger robberies have taken place since, but no-one remembers the names of the robbers or the crime; Ronnie Biggs and the Great Train Robbery will still be debated by millions for another 50 years.

"Ronnie Biggs was a good friend of mine, and I am proud to have been an instrumental part of his release campaign."

Mr Biggs escaped prison in 1965, but after years on the run, returned to the UK in 2001, spending eight years in prison before his release.



INFAMOUS TRAIN ROBBERY

THE Great Train Robbery – or the Cheddington Mail Van Raid as it was originally known – was one of the most daring and high profile ever seen.

The gang stopped and robbed a Royal Mail train as it made its way through Buckinghamshire en route from Glasgow to London, making off with £2.6 million in cash – £46m in today's money.

Although none had firearms, they were armed with blunt

instruments. And it was with a metal pole that driver Jack Mills was struck over the head.

The injuries meant he could never work again. Many point to them contributing to his death seven years later.

The raid took place in the early hours of August 8, 1963. Much of the money taken has never been traced.

There were 17 men in total who formed the notorious gang.



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Wheels turning for Saga sell-off

Joe Bill talks to BBC business expert Mickey Clark on company's future flotation on Stock Exchange

OVER-50S travel and insurance giant Saga could be floated on the Stock Exchange in the spring of 2014, according to one market expert.

Andrew Goodsell, chief executive of Acromas, the firm which owns Saga, confirmed last month it would go public within "12 to 24 months".

It would see staff, who own a 20 per cent stake in the company, sharing a £600 million pot if, as expected, the company is valued at £3 billion.

Saga was founded in 1959 and headquartered in Folkestone.

It started out offering holidays to the over-50s, but now offers a host of other services including insurance and banking. It currently employs more than 6,000 people in sites across the county.

It was sold by Roger de Haan in 2004 for £1.35bn to private equity firm Charterhouse, before it was merged with motoring organisation the AA under the umbrella of the parent company Acromas.

But BBC business guru Mickey Clark believes Acromas will look to float the firm sooner rather than later – and believes that could be as early as the spring. He believes with Acromas having borrowed billions of pounds from the banks to complete the takeover, it will be looking to raise



CASHED IN: Saga staff, who own 20 per cent of the company, could share a £600m windfall when the firm is floated

cash by floating Saga and selling off the AA separately before interest rates on those payments rocket.

Mr Clark, who lives in east Kent and writes for the Evening Standard and is a regular presenter on Radio 5 live's Wake Up To Money, said a floatation makes sense.

He said: "I think we will see them float next year. Acromas has got to raise money, to pay off the debt they took on when they bought it."

"Venture capitalists always borrow money when they are looking to buy somewhere. They want to go in, turn it around, and then sell it on."

"But, of course, with the economic slump and the banking collapse, all those plans were put on the back burner with Saga."

"In turn, a lot of venture capitalists have been lumbered with businesses that are expensive to run because their debts are accruing interest."

Floating Saga on the stock market will allow investors to buy shares in the company, raising cash for Acromas to pay back to the banks before higher interest rates kick in on the loan in 2016.

Mr Clark said: "The venture capitalists won't usually want to hang around. They might retain a stake, but the idea would be to raise the capital they need and make a profit."

"But they certainly don't want to land themselves with more debt."

Acromas' Mr Goodsell confirmed in a Sunday Times interview the AA could be sold off separately completing the break-up of Acromas Holdings.

Mr Clark added: "Splitting the two businesses up and selling them separately would be a good idea because both have got good brand names."

Earlier this month, Saga announced that former Domino's Pizza CEO Lance Batchelor would be taking over as the Kent company's new chief executive – a move, Mr Clark says, is a tell-tale sign that a company is preparing for floatation.

He added: "If they are beefing up the management, floatation is usually the way ahead."

"Both 2014 and 2015 are going to be crucial for the business."

"The longer the venture capitalists hold on to the business the more expensive it becomes."

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Spirits raised as landlords poised for an extra busy Christmas period

Bumper festive season expected due to this year's midweek December 25th, writes **Chris Murphy**

THERE will be more than a few smiles behind the bar as well as in front of it over the next seven days, as pubs look to cash in on a midweek Christmas Day delivering bumper takings.

It means landlords will get big crowds this weekend, and next, and also cash-in as more enjoy a drink on Christmas Eve.

Matt Sankey runs the popular Sankey's pub and restaurant in Tunbridge Wells.

He said: "This year is brilliant for business – we get a free weekend.

"It's like when Valentine's Day falls on a Monday; a quiet day suddenly becomes one of the most popular – it's the best thing in the world.

"When it falls on a Friday it's disappointing as that would be a busy day for us anyway."

With Christmas Day falling on a Wednesday and with many people off early, the cash tills should be ringing.

Mr Sankey added: "It's all about maximising the number of people we get into our building during the week. That is heavily restricted by people's work patterns.

"The majority of people will not be working on Monday and Tuesday so they could be coming to see us instead which is great as we get an extra two days of good business.

"When people are disrupted by a national holiday it really benefits us. A bit like when it snows. When that happens they don't go to work and many go to the pub or a restaurant.

"If it snows at the weekend it's not great, because nothing happens. But if it's midweek, it's

brilliant. And it is the same with Christmas in the middle of the week.

"This time Christmas Eve is a Tuesday and we would normally take around £2,000 that night.

"But this year we will take more than £10,000. It really is that much of a difference.

"We wish it was Christmas every day."

Chris Perry is the manager at Maidstone's popular White Rabbit pub on Sandling Road.

He said: "I am bringing in extra staff just to cope. It is a good time for us at the moment and with New Year coming too it should be great."

Jim Clarke has run the Ivy Leaf in Dartford for seven years.

He said: "Having a weekend either side of Christmas is good for us. We don't serve a lot of food, but the wet side of the pub will be helped enormously by the timing.

"We normally have a great two weeks, but then trade does drop off in the other weeks of the quarter to balance things out.

"People only have so much money to spend, and once that's gone they can't spend anymore."

Jean Bradshaw has only just taken over at the Coopers Arms in Rochester and this will be her first Christmas behind the bar.

She said: "We are bracing ourselves for a very busy period. With a weekend on both sides of Christmas, people will have plenty of choice when to visit pubs."

Mickey Green, at The Woolpack Inn in Chatham, added: "I have been here for 20 years and it is always really busy. It will be pretty hectic, but always good fun."

Drink carefully...

IT CAN be all too easy to over do it with many of us heading to the pub or staying at home with friends and plenty of alcohol.

But everyone should watch their intake.

Campaign group Drink Aware said getting very drunk can affect physical and mental health.

They warn: "In extreme cases, you could die. Overdosing on alcohol can stop you breathing or stop your heart, or you could choke on your vomit."

Binge drinking can affect mood and memory and in the longer term can lead to serious mental health problems. More commonly, it can also lead to anti-social, aggressive and violent behaviour.

The group claims alcohol is a factor in a third of all sexual offences and burglaries, and half of all street crimes.

Binge drinking is most common among 16 to 24-year-olds, and more prevalent among men than women.

Don't drink and drive

POLICE will be out in force to check drivers are not over the limit this Christmas.

Last weekend alone, 17 motorists were charged with drink-drive offences and will face court in the new year.

As part of the Christmas drink and drug-drive campaign, officers have been carrying out static road checks identifying and penalising motorists who may be impaired by alcohol or drugs.

Roads policing unit sergeant, Hannah Brown, said: "Christmas is a wonderful time of year and my fellow officers and I look forward to it like everyone else.

"However, we also feel apprehensive because this is a time when motorists take unnecessary risks.

"We want people to enjoy the festive season – but safely. That means not getting behind the wheel if you have been drinking any amount of alcohol or if you are impaired by prescription or illegal drugs."



PULLING 'EM IN: One Kent pub is expecting to take around £10,000 this Christmas Eve alone

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County delivers on its superfast broadband vow

Where other parts of the UK are struggling, Kent has taken the lead in providing high-speed internet to rural communities; the first of which is already feeling the benefit, writes **Marijke Cox**

IT'S BEEN a scheme dogged with problems across the country.

Delays, competition concerns and general funding worries, the Broadband Delivery UK project, which looks to bring superfast services to most of the population by 2015, has not been without its fair share of woes.

But in Kent the picture has been very different.

The ambitious scheme has steamed ahead, leaving other local authorities behind, with the first high-speed connection going live this week – at Densole, near Folkestone – three months ahead of schedule.

And more areas look set to follow over the coming months.

The £40 million scheme – funded by £10m from KCC, £9.87m from central Government and £19.6m from BT – will deliver higher speeds to 95 per cent of properties in Kent, with 91 per cent of those superfast, meaning speeds of 24mbps and above, allowing users to download a film in just 15 minutes.

Those unable to access high speeds through the new fibre infrastructure will still have access to at least 2mbps – a film download speed of approximately three or four hours.

Hundreds of miles of fibre is being installed over the next two years to support the roll-out.

The improvement to speed is expected to boost the county's economy by £1.5 billion every year.

Currently, many rural communities only have access to painfully slow or non-existent broadband.

Densole had been plagued with slow broadband speeds. But now, some 384 properties can place orders for the new, faster service from mainstream broadband providers.

"This is an important step forward," said KCC cabinet member for economic development Mark Dance.

"High-speed access to the internet has never been more important to everyone – from small businesses, to students and families.

"It will also help older people in Kent take advantage of systems like Telehealth and Telecare, which helps them stay in their own homes while accessing vital healthcare services.

"In today's rapidly moving world, fast and sophisticated communications are absolutely vital. They are an essential part of future success."

Builder Paul Combs runs his own business from his home in Densole. He welcomed the launch of faster services.

Understanding science of getting us better connected

OPENREACH, BT's local network business, is rolling out fibre-to-the-cabinet (FTTC) technology, where the fibre runs from the exchange to a local roadside cabinet.

It has also started to make fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP) technology, where the fibre runs all the way to the home or business, commercially available on demand in certain areas where fibre broadband has been deployed.

This is due to be expanded.

Due to the current network landscape – and economics of deployment – some premises will not initially be able to access fibre-based broadband, but Openreach said it was considering alternative solutions for these locations.

Fibre broadband at home means everyone in the family can do their own thing online, at the same time, such as downloading music, streaming movies, playing video

games or watching catch-up TV.

Firms with improved broadband can speed up file and data transfers, speak with colleagues and customers on conference or video calls, or swap their hardware and expensive software licences for files, processing power and software from cloud computing.

Staff can work as effectively from home as they would in the office.

The fibre networks will be open to all communication providers on an equal wholesale basis and so households and businesses will benefit from a competitive market.

Bill Murphy, BT's managing director of next generation access, said: "All over the country fibre broadband is changing people's lives. It provides a digital gateway to a wealth of opportunities whether it is supporting how we work, how we learn, how we communicate with friends and family, or how we entertain ourselves."

within the next 18 months.

The roll-out was supported by KCC's Make Kent Quicker campaign, which surveyed the county to see how great the need was.

Some 19,400 voted which helped negotiate an early roll-out with the Government.

Minister for the Department of Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Dan Rogerson, said broadband played an essential role in bridging the gap between urban and rural businesses and communities.

"Kent's superfast broadband announcement is part of a transformation of services happening throughout the UK," he said.

"By boosting the economy, superfast broadband will transform the opportunities for rural businesses, families and communities across the country."

• Do you suffer from poor internet connections where you live? Share your frustrations. Write to The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS. Or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.



SWITCHED ON: Densole was first rural community to go live this week

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College looks to the future despite harsh Ofsted assessment

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

CHIEFS at the county's biggest single provider of further education have insisted improvements are well under way after a damning Ofsted report rated it "inadequate".

K College, which has campuses in Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Ashford, Dover and Folkestone, went into "financial meltdown" in 2012 and is currently undergoing a process which will see it taken over and under new management by the start of the 2014 academic year.

But now major concerns have been outlined in the inspectors' report which said the "continued uncertainty over plans for the college's future existence is severely and adversely affecting the learner experience".

It added that "the quality of provision has declined and is not good enough in too many curriculum areas".

Another issue is the proportion of students successfully completing qualifications is "too low in significant areas of the college's provision, including on courses in English and mathematics, on apprenticeship programmes and on AS-level courses".

It added too much teaching is "insufficiently challenging and uninspiring" and that not all teachers have "sufficiently high aspirations" for their students.

The college ran into £17 million of debt in 2012, resulting in the principal, Bill Fearon – who had overseen the creation of the college following the merger of West Kent College and South Kent College – and a number of

governors stepping down.

The Skills Funding Agency (SFA) parachuted in a management team to get the college on an even keel and help balance the books.

Meanwhile, the process began to find a new organisation to lead the institution – which continues.

It has now passed into becoming an "administered college" which sees the government office, SFA, control spending and budgets – but this is not the same as a company going "into administration".

K College principal, Phil Frier, who took control 12 months ago when the college faced major financial difficulties, said: "Obviously all of us at K College are disappointed by the Ofsted report, but it is a judgment on the past and we are already working on the next steps needed."

"It should come as no surprise and was almost inevitable – due to the financial meltdown we experienced in 2012 – that the grades awarded indicate the college currently has an 'inadequate' rating."

"However, the narrative of the report clearly recognises the progress we have made this year."

"Importantly, our own self-assessment has proved accurate, demonstrating that we knew what the problems were and how to fix them. What's emerged from this inspection is that the pace of our improvement needs to be faster."

Referring to the management team, the report said: "The rate and pace of improvement are too slow and the college has insufficient resources and capacity to make the necessary changes to improve the quality of provision and the student experience."

"While recent changes to the management structure are positive, and the acting principal and other senior leaders do have a realistic view of the very significant challenges ahead, leaders and managers have not been sufficiently effective in raising standards."

The college heard this week how the move to new ownership will progress in the next few months.

The Further Education Commissioner has reviewed K College and recommended to the minister for further education, Matthew Hancock, that it enters into 'administered college' status. It prompted some to fear the financial meltdown had caused it to sink further.

Mr Frier added: "I can understand why that label could cause concern."

"But this is not the same as when a company goes into administration."

"In fact, the conditions of our status accurately reflect the agreements which have governed our relationship with the SFA for well over a year, so we remain operational and staff will continue to be paid and budgets will be available, monitored and controlled in exactly the same way."

"I can assure students and their families that we will continue to provide the best education and training possible."

The college will be supported by the SFA until August 2014, at which point staff and assets will be transferred to the new providers. The commitment to continuing to provide courses in the five towns remains in place.

Mr Frier added: "I believe this is a positive step, which will allow us to be more involved in shaping our own destiny, and doing our best for the students and staff."



SO WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

THERE have been dozens of interested parties seeking to take over the running of K College and the process to appoint the successful candidate is well under way.

The proposal is for K College to be split at the point of takeover – with Dover and Folkestone

becoming a separate entity to the inland campuses of Ashford, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells.

The college name will change at that point.

All students enrolled at the college are being ensured their courses will be seen through to completion.

In numbers

14,982
total number of students enrolled on full or part-time courses

14
age of the youngest student

89
age of the oldest

900+
apprentices catered for

2,232
students at Ashford

689 students at Dover

1,363
students at Folkestone

5,510
students at Tonbridge

566
students at Tunbridge Wells

1,100
full or part-time staff working across all five campuses

500+
number of courses offered

Source: K COLLEGE 2011-12

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£30m funding proves the first hurdle for £2bn theme park

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FOR a project which has yet to get funding or gain planning permission, the proposed movie studio-backed theme park on a former quarry site at Swanscombe is already capable of packing an almighty punch.

Earlier this month it managed to kick a proposal to site a lower Thames crossing nearby into touch, while it continues to generate a remarkable amount of enthusiasm.

But behind the hype, just what is the latest on the £2 billion park, which has a licence from Hollywood studio Paramount to use its movies as the basis of its branding and attractions, and is promising to create in excess of 25,000 jobs?

Not surprisingly, the initial stumbling block is financial.

Set against a backdrop of economic

gloom, the team behind the development – London Resort Company Holdings – is fighting hard to get the first £30 million investment.

Richard Stocks, at FTI Consultants, which is working on the project, said the global economy is partly to blame for the project's relatively slow pace, but he stressed it was "still progressing".

The initial funds are for feasibility studies and consultant reports.

Mr Stocks said there was "nothing more concrete in terms of where we are with securing that first phase money. It is kind of 'as you were'".

"In an ideal world, we would be further along than we are, but the world being what it is, it is taking time to move forward. We are progressing on a number of fronts and getting some encouraging feedback."

But he admitted he "can't guarantee" having good news within the next few months.

Mr Stocks said the decision to throw



FUN AND GAMES: It is hoped the Paramount-themed park will create 250,000 jobs – if funding can be secured

out the site as an option for a third Thames crossing was good news, but that it hadn't been putting off potential investors anyway.

Mr Stocks added: "I think a range of factors need to be taken into consideration and that was just one. The fact it has been ruled out has helped, but there remains other issues that need to be taken into account."

Asked if he was frustrated with the pace of progress, he said: "It's a big, complex project and was always

going to be a long journey, but we are determined to continue with that journey."

That should end with an 870-acre park on a brownfield site at the Swanscombe peninsula.

By securing a licence from Paramount it has acquired the rights to a host of its major movies such as Star Trek, Titanic, Mission: Impossible and Transformers, all of which can lend their name to rides and events.

The park hopes to be open by 2018.

It will feature Europe's largest indoor water park, theatres, a live music venue, cinemas, restaurants, rides and hotels.

A spokesman for London Resort Company Holdings has refused to comment on the progress being made.

A spokesman for Gravesham Borough Council, which shares the site with Dartford Borough Council, said of the Kent park's fight to raise the initial £30m: "This is not something we can comment on."



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Toying with gift ideas for 2013

So what will be crowned the best child's (or adult's) present this year? **Joe Bill** looks at the contenders.

STILL seeking that elusive last-minute gift before the big day?

We spoke to retail experts across the county to find out what they thought would end up being the most sought-after toys this year – a category which is usually the most keenly contested.

In years gone by, the crown has been claimed by everything from the Rubik's Cube to Thunderbirds, and from Furbys to Buzz Lightyear.

And who can forget when parents literally fought in the aisles in a bid to get their hands on one of the Teletub-

bies? Here are 10 of the most popular toys for 2013...

1 Nerf N-Strike Elite Rapidstrike CS-18: Nothing quite says merry Christmas like firing foam darts from a fully automatic weapon, striking your loved ones from an impressive distance of 20 metres. £40

2 Teksta Robotic Puppy: With no need for walks or feeding, Teksta can do plenty of tricks and will even wake you up in the morning. £50

3 Lego City Coastguard set: Popular as ever, Lego continues to be one of the most treasured toys with new styles and themes being released yearly, but the yellow men are not cheap. £60

4 Monster High: 13 wishes dolls: A little scary, but one for the girls. A classic doll, but with a modern theme. £20

5 Sony PlayStation 4: The latest in gaming technology will be flying off the shelves this Christ-

mas despite the steep price tag. £349

6 Microsoft Xbox One: A little more expensive than the PlayStation, but no less popular, the two mega brands in the world of games consoles will go head to head. £430

7 Robo Fish: Drop Robo Fish into water and it springs to life, swimming in a way almost indistinguishable from a real fish. Remove it from water and dry to deactivate, ready for use next time. £22

8 Furby Boom: The second generation of Furby can interact with smart phones and tablets and is as demanding as ever. £60

9 Monopoly Empire: Some things never change as the latest version of the board game – in which you build brands rather than houses – keeps a place at the top. £20

10 Dave the Minion: The yellow helper from popular film Despicable Me, which released its sequel this year. £45

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QUOTE: DF2-KOS

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8 days, semi-all-inclusive, **£849pp**
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- All transfers abroad

MENTON LEMON FESTIVAL, NICE CARNIVAL & MONACO



QUOTE: ML2-2-KOS

Escorted Holiday by air
4 days, **£399pp**
Departs 21 February, 2014

Come with us to see the French Riviera's premiere Carnivals and visit Monaco. We fly from Gatwick to Nice and stay in chic Beaulieu Sur Mer. On the French Riviera we travel to Nice, Menton and Monaco on the scenic coastal railway and enjoy great views along the way.

- INCLUDED:**
- Return flights from Gatwick to Nice with cabin baggage

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- 3 nights B&B in 3-star hotel between Nice and Menton
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QUOTE: FE3/10-KOS

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QUOTE: LC6-KOS

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- INCLUDED:**
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 - Transfers abroad

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QUOTE: TR5/9-KOS

Escorted Holiday by rail
8 days, semi-all-inclusive, **£899pp**
Departs 23 May & 20 September, 2014

Come with us to incomparable Tuscany. The Tuscan seaside town of Forte dei Marmi has been described as the region's Beverly Hills and here we enjoy free drinks every night at our hotel. We will visit Lucca, Pisa, Florence and Porto Venere - with access to stunning Cinque Terra. There is also the opportunity to visit Portofino.

- INCLUDED:**
- Escorted throughout
 - Return rail travel from London St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request)
 - 1 night hotel B&B in or near Nice & 6 nights in Italy with 6 buffet breakfasts, 6 dinners & Free Drinks from 6pm to 10pm every night
 - Excursions & transfers

Note: Price of Holidays by Air subject to flight availability at time of booking - supplement may apply

The power of panto

The serious business of pantomime plays a critical part in keeping theatres around the county going through the rest of the year, discovers **Greg Miles**

THE pantomime season is a time of hilarity for most, but behind the scenes it is the lifeblood of many theatres around the county.

While Wisby Washy, the Ugly Sisters and Co are keeping audiences entertained, the bean-counters are busy ensuring that panto makes the ends meet. If it fails to do so, there is a big knock-on for the rest of the year.

The magnitude of its importance is easily understood when you look at just how long the shows run.

Most start at the beginning of December and run through to mid-January, making them the longest-running shows of the year for most venues.

A successful panto season can set up a theatre for the rest of the year, giving it breathing space to take calculated risks on other productions. This is a view shared by the theatre director at The Orchard in Dartford, Chris Glover.

This year The Orchard has comedian and presenter Bradley Walsh starring in Cinderella, which is one of the big shows to put bums on seats.

"It's going amazingly well. Before we opened we had sold 90

“It does make or break a financial year, it's that important. Without the panto, I don't think we would be able to take as many risks.”

per cent of the tickets. That's a great place to be in," said Glover.

"It does make or break a financial year, it's that important.

"Without the panto I don't think we would be able to take as many risks in the rest of the year when we programme. We have an idea what might work, but we don't know for certain.

"I think panto helps that. We know we are more stable with it."

With such a huge captive audience steadily streaming through the doors, it is the perfect opportunity for theatres to showcase their calendar of shows for the year. A successful panto has a big impact on the returning numbers.

"During a standard week you might have eight performances, but for a panto you could have 12 – that's 11,000 or 12,000 people coming in," said Glover.

"Last year we had Aladdin and it received great reviews and on the back of that people booked for this year, which meant our sales were



EVER-POPULAR: Cinderella is one of the top-selling pantos. Bradley Walsh, top, is at The Orchard in Dartford, while Scott Wright and Lynette McMorrough, below, star in the Theatre Royal Margate production

way ahead. And when we announced Bradley Walsh, it boosted it even more.

"Theatre has always taken panto seriously – it's not just the financial side of it, but it's often someone's first experience of

theatre. So it's got to be a great experience in order for them to go on to visit their local theatre as adults.

"That's why it's so great to get people through the doors. People can see the posters and see what

else is on."

An even spread of pantomimes is also important so audiences do not get bored.

"We try to programme the more popular ones like Cinderella, Peter Pan and Aladdin," said Glover.

"Some people like coming to the panto and don't mind what it is.

"We have already announced who we are casting in next year's panto. We have got Craig Revel Horwood. He was here two years ago with Anne Widdicombe when I understand he was really popular.

"I think it puts us in a great position. He's a huge name and high-profile.

"Most theatres do have production companies that put them on. They specialise in it and have all the contacts and a huge range of celebrities they work with."

While theatres are obviously the main benefactors, there is also a financial knock-on effect for surrounding businesses, according to Eric Lund, production and operations manager at the Hazlitt in Maidstone.

"It's very important to us. It brings in a lot of people," he said. "As well as paying for their tickets, customers pay for programmes, merchandise and drinks. But it's not just ourselves that it's important to.

"The street where we are is full of restaurants and they do a good business in panto season, with people eating when they come in to see a show, before or after.

"The taxi firms do well, dropping people off, and we get a lot of school parties, too, which is good for the coach companies."

The Hazlitt is putting on Dick Whittington this year, which although not normally as popular as some others is still doing a good trade. Last year more than 25,000 people saw Cinderella at the venue, which represented 85 per cent of the seats that were available.

"Normally it's between 85 per cent and 90 per cent," said Lund. "We put on some extra dates last year, so that's why the percentage was slightly lower, but we sold more seats overall than the year before.

"If you did the same shows every year, people would stop coming. You have got to put a few years between things. I have been here 15 years and we have done three Cinderellas in that time.

"You have to mix and match the shows, too, so one year it appeals to girls and the next it is appealing to boys."

Each venue takes a different

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« Continued from page 43

approach to finding its star names and, while The Orchard has sorted next year's before this year has finished, the Hazlitt is not rushing into anything, although it is still getting ahead of the game on organisation.

"We start preparing for the following years before we finish the existing one," said Lund. "We have to start thinking about it and what it's going to be, what production company to use, what stars we are going to have. You can't make a decision too early, though."

"When we get people in, we have to think about our audience demographic."

Steve Davis, managing director at Your Leisure, which runs Theatre Royal Margate, is pleased with how things are going with the venue's production of Cinderella featuring Coronation Street's Scott Wright and Lynette McMorrough from Crossroads.

"At the moment I would suggest we are not far off doubling our audiences from last year," he said. "The more money you can make at this time of year offsets any other productions you want to put on the rest of the year."

"Some theatres, I'm sure, make a lot of money and if it wasn't for that they wouldn't be able to put on some shows."

"I suppose in some ways it has taken over from the summer season. Years ago, we would have seen some of the big names doing the summer shows and spending six weeks in Margate or Blackpool, but now they spend six weeks in pantos, partly

because there aren't as many big shows any more."

With plenty of theatres from which audiences can choose, some of the smaller venues have to be careful about how they market a production.


"We wouldn't dream of competing with The Marlowe in Canterbury," said Davis. "There you're paying, comparatively, a lot of money for it, but at the end of the day there's room for everyone."

"There is probably only a certain size of pie of people who are going to go to panto and, if we have seen a large increase, where has that come from? Some may well have gone to The Marlowe but changed because of the costs and all the rest of it."

STARS OF THE FESTIVE STAGE:

Picking top names, such as Steve Hewitt, top left, and former EastEnders Samantha Womack, below, for panto pulls in big crowds





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Happy Days are here again as Fizz meets Fonz

Cheryl Baker's living the dream as Mrs Cunningham in Happy Days. She talks to **Greg Miles** about the impact of the recession on her personal life and a Bucks Fizz legal battle.

BUCKS Fizz star Cheryl Baker will be taking a step back to her childhood in the new Happy Days musical that opens in Bromley next month.

A huge fan of the original TV series, Baker, who lives near Tonbridge, has been cast as Mrs Cunningham in the stage show, which, after Bromley, plays at Canterbury and Dartford in May.

The chance to work again is welcome for the Eurovision Song Contest winner, who has felt the

effects of the recession in recent years, having to downsize from her seven-bed Sevenoaks home.

The 59-year-old also hopes to resume the legal battle for the naming rights of the band with which she enjoyed huge chart success in the 1980s, but for the next six months at least she will be gracing the stage.

The chance to work with the legendary Henry Winkler, who played Fonzie, The Fonz, or Arthur Herbert Fonzarelli, to give his character's full name, is something

of a dream come true for Baker.

He is helping the cast – which includes Emmerdale's Ben Freeman in his role and Sugababe Heidi Range as Pinky Tuscadero – as a creative consultant for one day a week while playing Captain Hook in Peter Pan in panto not so far away in Richmond.

Also behind the scenes is Gary Marshall, who created the original series. He has written the production, which is directed and choreographed by Olivier Award nominee Andy Wright. The brains behind the music is Oscar-winning



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Paul Williams, who worked on Buggy Malone and The Muppets and with the band Daft Punk on this year's Random Access Memories album.

"He talks about the characters and how they were with each other and what they meant to each other," said Baker about Winkler. "There is an aura about him. For me, especially, it's great because I grew up watching Happy Days. It was such an iconic series and meant so much to me."

"At that time American series were the untouchables. We never dreamed we were going to meet them or play the parts – it was another world."

It was something of a family routine to watch it together when

“I'm going to be working for six months now. Any other time, especially the previous 18 months, work has been extremely hard to come by.”

Baker is a youngster.

"I was a big fan of Happy Days when it was on telly," she said. "I remember it was on every Saturday and everybody sat around the telly watching it. For me, I wouldn't miss Happy Days and The Monkees. I loved all the characters, they were so different and funny."

"Ralph Malph was a clown and made me laugh and Potsie tried to be cool and never made it. Richie Cunningham was the straight guy and his family were the crux of everything."

It was a quick casting appointment, as she explains: "I was asked if I wanted to audition – I jumped at it. I went for the audition on the Friday morning and it all went very well. They were very smiley, but that doesn't mean a lot."

"I had a phone call in the afternoon and was offered the part."

"They have got to see if you really suit it and if you get along with people and you're not a diva. We are in the second week of rehearsals and we're having so much fun."

"It's so nice to be paid to do something I love."

Baker is no stranger to the stage, having played her part in plenty of pantos, dramas and musicals down the years, while also appearing in many TV shows. But for many it is her time in Bucks Fizz that sticks in the memory.

The group of Baker, Mike Nolan, Jay Aston and Bobby G were formed in 1981 for the Eurovision Song Contest, which they subsequently won with Making Your Mind Up.

That set them up for stardom as they sold more than 15 million records and spent 150 weeks in the charts with three UK No 1s – Land Of Make Believe, My Camera Never Lies and, of course, the Eurovision hit.

In December 1984, calamity struck when the group's tour bus crashed. No one was killed, but several band members were badly injured, including Nolan. He slipped into a coma for three days and was left with lasting short-term memory loss and impaired vision.

Shortly afterwards, Aston quit the group to pursue solo projects and Shelly Preston came on board.

Baker herself left in 1993 to start a



COOL! Baker is joined in the Happy Days cast by Ben Freeman as The Fonz and Heidi Range as Pinky Tuscadero

family, after which she developed her career as a television presenter. In the meantime, Bobby G continued in his version of the group with an ever-changing line-up.

It was not until 2006 that the original members got together again for an appearance on Comic Relief,

which in turn sparked Baker, Nolan and Aston to reform in 2008 as The Original Bucks Fizz. A legal battle soon started, though, as Bobby G stopped them using the name.

In 2011 a judge ruled in his favour and Baker's outfit took up the name OBF instead. That fight is one she is

keen to restart, but she has fears about the costs.

"It's time we fight for the right to use the name again. It's ridiculous, it's morally wrong," she said.

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« Continued from page 47

"It's more than annoyance. We went to the trademark tribunal about it. He had no idea about the music industry.

"The trademarks tribunal was in favour of Bobby G and three complete unknowns."

The name-change is not just about the morals. Rather, it is the effect on OBF that is the big problem.

"They are playing inferior gigs at caravan parks. There's nothing wrong with that, but I don't want people to associate us with that," said Baker. "We have lost gigs because of it and we get lower fees.

"We were told there were discrepancies with his findings and we could take it to the High Court, but you have to have the money in your back pocket just in case you lose. That would be a minimum of £100,000."

There is a myth that if you have been on the TV or in a successful band, like Bucks Fizz, then there are riches without end.

However, the recession has had a far-reaching effect on Baker: "TV presenting doesn't pay bills. When I did Record Breakers for 11 years and other series, it was just a job and I went to work to get the wage and came home.

"I was happy to do it, but it didn't give me the buzz that performing on stage does.

"I'm going to be working for six months now. Any other time, especially for the previous 18 months, work has been extremely hard to come by. We're just the same as everybody else, struggling to pay

the bills. In a recession they say the first thing that people cut back on in life is entertainment.

"There are a few gigs I have taken for a lot less than we should have because we needed it. I have done things for the money because I needed to pay bills."



THE FONZ: Henry Winkler

With work harder to come by, the family decided to downsize from their seven-bed home in Ightham, near Sevenoaks, in 2011, moving to a property at West Peckham.

"We are in the middle of a fruit farm. The only noise I ever hear is the birds," said Baker. "The house is a lot smaller and it's relatively cramped. We moved because we couldn't afford it [the previous house]. It was once again down to the recession.

"The price of the house dropped dramatically and we were knocked down by the people buying it. We had to take it because we weren't in a position where we couldn't.

"We are no different to anybody else – we all suffer. We have never been rich enough not to have to worry. People see you on the telly and assume you're rolling in it."

In 2006 she invested in two properties in the Cape Verde island of Sal, which was predicted to become a tourist hot-spot. The boom has not yet happened, but Baker is hopeful that she will one day see a return on what she has there.

"We haven't been there for three or four years now," she said. "If we wanted to sell it, we would get half the price we paid for it. It's another thing I'm trying to hang on to by the skin of my teeth."

Baker turns 60 in March but, unlike many, she is not getting hung up on it and instead of thinking about retirement she is happy to keep working.

"If I had to retire, I would be so bored," she said. "This is my life, the music, theatre, my children, my husband and home – that's my whole world and age doesn't come into it.

"It's great being this age. I have got so much more knowledge and memories. Teaching the young kids is great – they ask me questions and it's great to be able to talk to them.

"It's a shame there is a figure – why can't we just have any age?"

"A lot of my friends are either planning to retire or already have. They are the same age and I will be 60 in March. They have their mortgages paid off already."

■ For full details of the Happy Days tour, which is playing at Bromley's Churchill Theatre, The Orchard Theatre in Dartford and The Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury, visit www.happydaysthemusical.com.

Time Out Top Ten

1 Rare Breeds Centre, Woodchurch
Until Monday, December 23
Website: www.rarebreeds.org.uk
Magical Christmas: Meet Santa and his helpers in the grotto. Booking advised. Times vary.

2 The Avenue Theatre, Sittingbourne
Friday, January 3
Phone: 01795 471140
Love Is All You Need: Rom-com movie starring Pierce Brosnan. Starts 7.45pm. Tickets £4.

3 Quarterhouse, Folkestone
Sat to Sat, December 21-28
Phone: 01303 858500
www.quarterhouse.co.uk
The Way Back Home: Children's alien adventure written by Oliver Jeffers. Tickets £7.

4 Market Place, Faversham
Monday, December 23
www.faversham.org
Carols in the Market Place: Join in a community sing-a-long at 7pm with the Faversham Mission Band.

5 Hazlitt, Maidstone
Wednesday, January 8
Phone: 01622 758611
www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk
Comedy night: Laugh along with Mike Gunn, Ivo Graham and Andrew Ryan. Tickets £10.

6 Sheppey Little Theatre, Sheerness
Fri to Sun, December 27-29
www.sheppeylittletheatre.org
Robinson Crusoe: Affordable panto by Shooting Stars Entertainments. Tickets £6.

7 Turner Contemporary, Margate
Saturday, December 28
www.turnercontemporary.org
Craft Club: Join in a free craft session and learn to knit, crochet and sew from 1pm-4pm.

8 Chartwell, Westerham
December 30-Feb 14
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www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chartwell
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9 Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
Thursday to Sunday, Jan 2-12
www.thegulbenkian.co.uk
Cinderella: Laugh along with all your favourite characters in the panto. Tickets from £14.90.

10 Hornby Visitor Centre, Margate
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Avoid New Year gym rush by cutting back

It is all too easy to overload on the calories during Christmas, which adds an average 5lb come New Year, but you can tackle that problem with these tips

IN a couple of weeks, gyms will have their annual boost of members as the nation looks to take a half-hearted stand against the expanding waistline.

That, of course, is down to the inevitable excesses of the Christmas period.

We have all been there, failing to resist just one more mince pie, or taking a handful of chocolates at a time, and that is before you even get to the main meals that look like they require scaffolding for structural support.

It all adds to the nation putting

on the extra chunk of weight in a few weeks. It is a situation that can be avoided, though, if you really want to avoid it.

Staggeringly, on average we will consume 6,000 calories on Christmas Day alone. To put that into context, the recommended daily amount is 2,000 for women and 2,500 for men.

The festive period does, of course, last longer than just the one day, and with things like selection boxes, the biscuits and the chocolates on the side, it is thought we consume an extra 500 calories per day.

It all adds up to a weight gain of about 5lb by the time we reach New Year.

The British Dietetic Association (BDA) has come up with some handy tips, shown below, that will still let you enjoy your Christmas while stopping that extra weight gain come the New Year.

Sian Porter, BDA consultant dietitian, said: "We're not being killjoys and saying everybody should follow all of these tips.

"What we are saying is: if you are thinking about your calorie intake over Christmas, these tips may be worth considering.

"Christmas is a time when we all consume a little more than we usually do and that is absolutely fine.

"It's all about the bigger picture and if you are eating a balanced diet in the run-up to Christmas and perhaps in the New Year, you will be fine.

"Make sure you have lots of healthy options to eat, too, as often treats lose their allure when we're eating them daily.

"And we can get bored of all the rich food on offer and crave some basic foods like beans on toast or a refreshing fruit salad."

STAY SLIM: GO EASY ON THE BOOZE AND LOSE THE FATTENING TURKEY SKIN

- **Forward plan:** If you're going to eat out, eat smaller meals in the run-up and the next day and cut out any other treats beforehand.
- **Buffet surfing:** Don't stalk the buffet table. If you do indulge, visit only once, using a smaller dessert-sized plate, avoiding high-saturated fat offerings like sausage rolls and quiche.
- **Office overload:** Don't get tempted to Hoover up your colleagues' Christmas chocolates and other temptations. Avoid the office

communal chocolate/mince pies fest.

- **Smart supermarket:** When going to the supermarket, make a list and stick to it. Only buy what you need.
- **Skin deep:** Turkey is a great source of protein and a low-fat meat. Most of the fat present in a cooked turkey will be found in the skin. Why not take the skin off before you tuck in to, for many, the main attraction?
- **No portion distortion:** At least a third of your dinner plate should be a variety of vegetables, such as

unbuttered Brussels sprouts, peas and carrots.

- **Pie-eyed:** The average mince pie contains about 250 calories and that's before it's covered in cream or brandy butter. Remove the lid to cut calories.
- **Bottoms down:** Alcohol is very energy-dense (7kcal/g versus 4kcal/g for protein or carbs and 9kcal/g for fat). Avoid sweet cocktails and creamy liqueurs. Try alternating your drink with a glass of water.

From holiday park local to a fresh-faced award-winner

Oyster Pearl

Location: Seasalter

Reviewed by **CHRIS THOMSON**

SEASALTER is a strange environment at the best of times. A low-lying bolt-on to nearby trendy Whitstable, it's a hotch-potch of bungalows and council houses, marshes and caravan parks. It's also really rather beautiful.

The Sportsman, the Michelin-starred restaurant, is perched at the far end, while a short drive towards civilisation is a relative newcomer to the scene and one that is already making something of name for itself. In what was a rather uninviting

pub catering for the seasonal trade in the caravan holiday park directly opposite, the Oyster Pearl Pub & Restaurant took shape.

Today, it is a proud award-winner, having scooped the Best Newcomer gong at the Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards. So it must be doing something right.

Arriving on a bitterly cold Saturday night, the welcome is warm.

The restaurant leads off the main pub, which is reassuringly busy. The

burbling noise of voices and music floats in to create a relaxed atmosphere; a TV screen showing Strictly plays in the corner. Yet the food on offer is far from your traditional pub grub.

This is very much an attempt at fine dining in a contemporary setting – and the good news is that it works.

I plump for a starter of what is becoming a more and more popular dish. Pan-fried wild pigeon breast served with Madeira sauce bruschetta delivers some rich meat. But the bruschetta, which loses its crispness under the moisture of the meat, ends up rather dominating the

subtleties of the pigeon and the result is rather disappointing. It's an inauspicious start.

Yet the main meal excels in a way that manages to banish all thought of the underwhelming start.

Roast Gressingham duck breast, served with Dauphinoise potato, seasonal vegetables and Victoria plum sauce, is a general success.

The pieces of duck are chunky and full of flavour and beautifully seasoned, the portion generous yet not intimidating. What's more, the tastes all complement each other perfectly. A really cracking dish.

To round it all off, I opt for that festive favourite of Christmas

pudding. It is brought to the table, a little brandy poured over it, and ignited. As the blue flames lap around it, I appreciate why this place is becoming so popular.

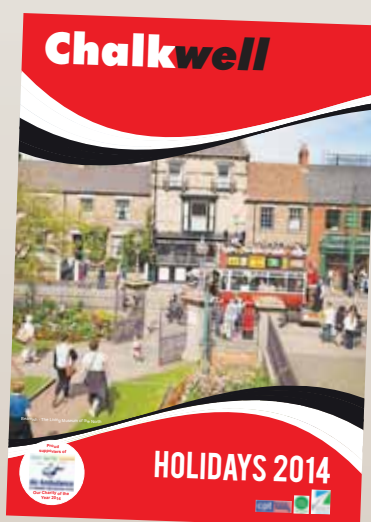
The atmosphere of the pub flows well into the eating area and enlivens it while never being overbearing. The service is swift and attentive. And very friendly. Seasalter should be very proud of its latest addition.

■ **Oyster Pearl Pub & Restaurant**
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John Lewis homing in on lucrative Christmas market

BRAND image is hugely important in the world of retail.

Particularly during the festive season when so many products, suppliers and chain stores are jostling for position in front of a general public keen to spend.

The trick is just how to stand out from the crowd.

For one UK retail big-hitter, maximising Christmas market opportunities has become something of an art form.

It may not come cheap, but there is as much discussion generated now by the launch of the festive John Lewis advert as there is an episode of Downton Abbey.

This year's tale of a cartoon bear waking up to share Christmas Day will either leave you feeling warm and fuzzy or stepping in schmaltzy-goo. Either way, you'll end up talking about John Lewis.

Which is handy given its tentacles are now stretching further around the county than ever before.

With a department anchor store at Bluewater, it added to its 'at home' outlet in Tunbridge Wells by opening the doors to an Ashford branch last month.

Nigel Davies is the branch manager at the west Kent store and he believes the much talked about Christmas advert – which this year cost £7million to make – is key to the business' marketing strategy.

"I think it's huge. Our customers really buy into it and engage with the brand through the advert."

The store, which saw a 10 per cent rise in sales for the first week in December on last year, has even created a 'Bear and the Hare' photo opportunity, capitalising on the advert's characters.

Mr Davies said: "It's something different every year, and it has been phenomenally successful."

"Last year we had the 'snowman' and you could have your photo taken with him. Now we have a place for you to come and have your photo with the Bear and the Hare."

"I hear our customers walking around the shop humming the advert. I think that is really special. So far it's had £10 million hits online – that just shows its popularity."

The recession has caused the demise of several large retail brands in the UK, with the likes of Woolworths and Comet both disappearing.

Joe Bill learns how the major retailer uses a festive favourite to get message across to its growing customer base



HOME FROM HOME: Nigel Davies, manager at Tunbridge Wells store

Meanwhile, the ever-growing contingent of customers using online shopping has also meant bricks-and-mortar retailers have had to get up to speed with their internet offering or find new ways of attracting people into their stores.

But has the attraction of online shopping affected footfall at John Lewis at home?

"No, not at all. In fact we are seeing more customers coming to the Tunbridge Wells shop and John Lewis is experiencing that as a whole."

"We are seeing continued footfall growth week on week, year on year."

"Okay, John Lewis.com was 35 per cent up on the year too, but we

are seeing a massive growth into our shops."

"Many of our customers are using our click-and-collect service as well. What that does is customers will order something, come in to collect it, but stop and have a coffee or look around the store and they might buy something else."

Mr Davies has been at the Tunbridge Wells store for more than two years and believes the brand's innovative ideas will keep them ahead of rivals.

"Online is clearly a growing element for all retailers, so I think it will be that market which really challenges everyone, but we are incredi-

bly innovative in that area," he said.

"Mobile phone shopping is growing really big for us. This is the year of smart phone retail."

"But having a shop is just as important to us as retailing online. Many of my customers will have a look online, come in to the shop, have a look at a product, touch and feel it, talk to our partners [staff] about it and then maybe go back and buy it online."

Along with its sister company – food retailer Waitrose – John Lewis has carefully built up a perception as an upmarket place to shop.

In short, a shopping destination to aspire to.

But many still believe it also represents high prices.

Not that Mr Davies agrees: "I couldn't disagree more. We represent fantastic value for money and we do have all sorts of customers shopping with us at all times of the year."

"Of course, there's that bespoke range right at the top of the market where you can have your whole house done up any way you want, and that will no doubt appeal to a different type of customer."

"But I really challenge the perception we are expensive because we still have our 'Never Knowingly Under-sold' policy – where we price match any retailer on the high street."

The department store, from which the 'at home' stores were spawned, was founded in 1964.

Over the years it has received many plaudits for the way it treats its staff or 'partners' who receive annual bonuses depending on the company's performance.

Though not owned by shareholders, everyone who works at John Lewis has a share of the profits; whether that be in cash or through a benefits scheme.

Mr Davies explains: "Our profits are shared in a number of ways."

"We have various holiday facilities across the UK which range from activity holidays to castle visits. We also have a subsidised box at the O2 Arena and other music venues and we offer lots of other subsidised events. But the most common and most well known is our partner dividend bonus, a monetary share of our profits."

Continued on page 46 »

Training, courses & careers

City campus all set to grow with further £9m spending plans

CANTERBURY College's redevelopment continues with details of a further £9million investment in its city centre campus unveiled.

And chiefs at the further education centre say the construction could provide a platform for students to learn the ropes through apprenticeships or work experience placements.

The new complex will include a high-tech business and enterprise centre, new arts buildings and purpose-built sports facilities.

It brings the college's total capital investment since 2005 to over £140m.

The college, which has secured a new £3m grant from the Skills

Funding Agency - the Government office responsible for further education - hopes to start on the project early in 2014 and open in September 2015, subject to agreement from Canterbury City Council's planning committee.

College principal, Alison Clark, said: "This exciting project will complete the redevelopment of our city centre site, delivering first-class facilities for pupils and staff at the college, which will also be available to the wider community.

"In the last 10 years, the college has invested substantially in new buildings and facilities, and I am delighted that we will, with the



PLANS: Artist's impression of how college campus will look

help of the Skills funding Agency be able to complete our vision.

"These new buildings are great for local employment too. Their construction may offer college students apprenticeship and work experience opportunities, and the main contractors, Morgan Sindall, have committed to using local contractors and employing local

people where possible. Once opened, the new buildings will enable new job opportunities as the college extends its business and sports services to the community."

The college says during its growth it has helped grow the local economy and now has an annual turnover of some £34m.

Chance for new power generation

EAST Kent College has boosted its relationship with the engineering sector after securing a partnership with Cummins Power Generation Kent and local recruitment firm Morgan Jones.

Students will now have the chance to study for a new welding diploma and gain paid work experience at the power generator manufacturers. CPGK has a factory at Manston. Craig Thomas, at Cummins, said: "This will give students a great way to build up their CVs."

Apprentices find route to the top

APPRENTICESHIPS are proving more and more to be an essential stepping stone to the top, after a recent survey revealed 11 per cent of employers in the south east say they currently have former apprentices working at board level.

The findings were released to launch the third annual City & Guilds Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers list.

» What is your business doing to help our young people? If you have a good news story, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call 01303 817100.

Big fine after worker loses top of finger

AN ENGINEERING firm in Sheerness has been fined £12,000 after a worker lost the tip of a finger when his gloved hand got caught in an unguarded drill.

The 62-year-old employee, from Sittingbourne, needed the top joint of his left ring finger amputated after the incident at G & P Ma-

chine Shop Ltd in Sheerness in August 2012. He was able to return to work but has since retired.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigated and prosecuted the firm for failing to make sure protective measures were installed to stop workers accessing dangerous moving machinery parts.

GROWING SUCCESS OF ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

THE John Lewis TV advert seems to have become synonymous with Christmas in the UK.

Since its first major work in 2007, the budget put aside to create the advert seems to have rocketed and so has the amount of people talking about it.

Here we take a look at some of the best from recent years...

2013 The Bare And The Hare: The story of two animal friends is the first time John Lewis has used animation in its Christmas advertising. The ad features a hare trying to find the perfect gift for his friend, who has never seen Christmas due to hibernation. That turns out to be an alarm clock. It features Lily Allen's cover of Keane's song Somewhere Only We Know.

2012 The Journey: Last year's touching offering, pictured right, featured a snowman going to great lengths to find the perfect present for his special friend. The journey featured a version of Frankie Goes to Hollywood's The Power of Love, sung by Gabrielle Aplin. The advert led to a spin-off



children's book of the snowman's adventure.

2011 The Long Wait: The Long Wait featured a little boy desperately wishing Christmas would come around again, the twist being that he actually couldn't wait to give his parents their presents rather than get his. It featured The Smiths' track Please, Please, Let Me Get What I Want, covered by Slow Moving Millie. It was hugely popular and sparked an enormous interest in the brand's future festive adverts.

« Continued from page 45

"The success of our business is determined by how well our partners perform and deliver great customer service. And they have a vested interest in that because they share the profits from it."

Anyone working for John Lewis receives a 25 per cent discount off their shopping within three months of starting before the cash boost to their pay packet at the end of the financial year.

However, John Lewis, like many large brand stores, has been criticised for building expansive outlets away from town centres - similar to

last month's Ashford opening which is situated on the town's outskirts.

There still remains a fear major retailers will continue to look for cheaper out-of-town alternative sites, so taking customers away from already struggling high streets.

But Mr Davies disagrees, saying John Lewis is committed to having high street locations.

"We have got shops across the country based in both town centres and in retail parks and shopping centres. We have a mixture here in Kent too; the Tunbridge Wells store is very close to the town centre."

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Identifying perfect acquisition can be marriage made in business heaven

With signs the economy is finally moving out of recession, business leaders in Kent are daring to use the word 'growth' again. **Geert Struyven**, a corporate finance partner at accountancy firm Crowe Clark Whitehill, considers what business owners can do to maximise their potential...

IF YOU are looking to grow your business, acquiring another company is an option that should be considered alongside other opportunities.

The challenge is identifying the right acquisition – one that will maximise the value of marrying the two businesses.

Targets for acquisition do not have to be massive; in fact, most successful companies make lots of small acquisitions rather than one big one as it's easier to integrate the business, its products, staff and culture, and achieve the value.

Equally, targets shouldn't be a 'mini-me' of the purchaser.

Acquisitions deliver faster results when in a similar market, but offering a different product range. This creates cross-selling opportunities and more coherent marketing, alongside industry-knowledgeable staff.

But where do you start?

First assemble your target list; this requires the buyer and their advisers to consider the ideal match in terms of size, location and sector – and a consideration of the likely value. Once the list has been suitably refined it is a matter of discrete and confidential approaches by advisers, followed by tough and often lengthy negotiations.

Valuation is often an eye-opener for clients and can be a deal-breaker for the target, whose owners may have unrealistic expectations.

Calculating value is a complex formula that takes into consideration turnover, costs, profits and assets and seeks to compare it against industry benchmarks.

Having to put a value on another business also often makes the potential purchaser realise the value of their own firm. This can focus their minds on how to create future value, to one day become a target for acquisition themselves.

With bank lending still tight, another challenge is raising capital.

To do this buyers need a solid business plan to guide them through the negotiations with potential funders. While there is bank lending available for the right opportunities, other sources include private equity, overseas suppliers becoming investors in their UK distribution chain, or existing cash resources preserved by businesses over the last few years.

Assembling the right team to work with you is also essential. Acquisitions are time consuming, so a good corporate finance advisor will take away some of the burden, leaving you free to manage your business.



EXPANSION PLAN: Will an acquisition help your firm grow quicker, asks Geert Struyven

Growth through acquisition takes time, effort and determination to succeed. Throughout the process, the buyer will learn about their position in the marketplace, as well as theirs' and their competitors' strengths and weaknesses.

Finally, before heading off on a hunting expedition, consider a number of important questions.

Will an acquisition help you grow quicker and add more value than organic growth?

Are you ready to make the investment of time and money to go through with the acquisition, and do you have the management team to look after the enlarged business?

If the answer suggests an acquisition is right, then go for it.



GRAND DESIGN: Newham Court Shopping Village will become a major retail hub after rebuild

£85m investment a "clear sign" of improving economy

By Joe Bill

joe.bill@archant.co.uk

BUSINESS chiefs have thrown their support behind ambitious plans to transform Newham Court Shopping Village into a major retail hub.

Plans will see £85 million invested into the site just off junction seven of the M20, which is currently home to the Notcutts garden centre and a number of other business units.

The scheme, spearheaded by Land Securities, would see Debenhams and Waitrose open major outlets, while Notcutts would also have a new building.

Jo James, chief executive of the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, says the investment is more evidence Kent is emerging from recession.

"Whenever a major player like Land Securities commits to huge projects like this in the county it's a clear sign our economy is really gaining momentum," she said.

"Not only will the project support more than 1,000 high-quality jobs with companies of the reputation and standing of Debenhams and the John Lewis Partnership, there is also the boost to the construction industry during the building phase. This is great news for Kent and we

warmly welcome the development."

Maidstone Borough Council is expected to make a decision on the planning application early in the new year.

It is hoped that improving shopping facilities at Newham Court will attract businesses to relocate to the area and boost sites such as the Turkey Mill business complex.

Director John Hawkins said: "When we market the offices at Turkey Mill, prospective tenants consider a range of factors when deciding whether to locate here.

"One of these is local facilities and I believe that improving and extending the shops at Newham Court will help persuade companies to relocate here, generating additional employment opportunities."

Land Securities says Kent's £3.4 billion tourism sector will also benefit from the investment in Maidstone.

Manager Chris Ward believes the redevelopment is an opportunity to "enhance the local shopping experience with high-quality stores" as well as improve the infrastructure.

He added: "This exciting project represents a fantastic opportunity. It will attract more shoppers to Maidstone who currently spend their money elsewhere and create jobs for local people."

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Pictures don't tell true tale of speed

TWO serious accidents in Somerset Road, Canterbury, involving alleged drunk drivers; so what is the answer?

According to a petition doing the rounds, a speed camera is needed.

Is this to punish the thousands of drivers that use this road, but have not crashed?

All those signing this petition, of course, have never broken a speed limit in their life.

But 'speeding' does not mean dangerous, it is just a technical infringement. You need other factors, like prevailing road conditions, to say whether that speed was dangerous.

Does a speed camera detect a drunk driver, or inconsiderate driver? No, it can only measure one thing: speed.

As long as I am driving under the speed limit, I can drive down the wrong side of the road, but the 'safety' camera says I am safe to do so.

Genuine road safety is one hard slog of education (from an early age), not silly soundbites so beloved by attention-grabbing MPs and councillors.

Terry Hudson, Whitstable

Goodwill worth more this season

HOW sad it is some people deliberately get into debt in order to give expensive presents at Christmas.

Presents don't have to cost money, they can be sincere promises made to the people we love.

However, these gifts require effort and time, and time is precious.

It's this precious time that could be invaluable to the recipient and to the giver alike. It is this time that could help to strengthen our family unity beyond price.

Instead of building up debts, why not build on family ties by extra acts of kindness in this season of goodwill? It could catch on.

Happy Christmas to one and all.

June Moore, Tunbridge Wells

Boyle highlights fellow sufferers

SINGER Susan Boyle recently revealed that she was diagnosed with Asperger syndrome.

Like the many other adults with autism who are diagnosed relatively late in life, Susan said that finally getting a diagnosis was a great source of relief, providing an explanation for years of feeling 'different'.

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Countryside central to this power struggle

IF housing is such a priority in Government thinking, why is so much 'spare' agricultural land being gifted to solar farms over the next 25 years, with all the negative effects that brings to the beauty and serenity of Kent's countryside?

Surely logic would prevail if it were decided to assign some of the hundreds of hectares apparently available to properly scaled and managed new towns to ease the pressure on major townships already at breaking point?

Well-placed new and strategi-

cally managed satellite towns or even cities will allow solutions to housing and core infrastructure to be addressed at county and national level as Kent struggles to cope with its geographical attractions for growth and population.

Inappropriate stewardship of our countryside can only lead to serious public unrest and dissatisfaction with badly managed local public funding of nationally-enforced planning, leading overall to our net loss of valued and treasured green space.

Keith Young, via email

But there are practical benefits to diagnosis as well – as they should, in theory, allow people to access all the local help and support they need.

Help and support that was promised to them by 2009's Autism Act – England's first disability specific piece of legislation.

In the four years since the Act, there has been some progress in providing autism sufferers with what they need, but it's been patchy and many of the some 460,000 adults with autism across England are still waiting.

Susan Boyle's story has caught the public's attention and got people talking about autism and the effect it has on people's lives.

That's great. But what we need now is for Government to take notice of the fact too many people are still waiting for the everyday support they need.

That's why I hope people will join me in supporting the National Autistic Society's Push for Action campaign (www.autism.org.uk/push). Together we can work to put the needs of needs of adults with autism front and centre.

No-one with autism should wait for a diagnosis or for the support they need. We have a chance to make a huge difference to lives across Kent.

It must not go to waste.

Lynette Dallimore, Brenzett

Animals deserve Christmas cheer

DURING the Christmas season reindeer, donkeys and even camels are transported around the country to be used as entertainment in parades, nativity plays, Santa's grottos and other festive events.

Such events attract crowds of people, but put the animals under severe stress and cause a variety of health problems.

According to research at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, the increase in deaths in young reindeer, including seven reindeer who died from liver and gut flukes in Shropshire and another who died from a lung disease on a farm near Winchester, were likely to be linked to bad diet, poor welfare and the stress of being uprooted from their natural habitat.

Invariably, many animals used in parades suffer long periods of confinement, gruelling journeys to the events in which they will be used and stress from being paraded or even ridden in public.

Animal Aid urges all readers to be kind this Christmas, and choose entertainment that does not involve the use of animals.

Fiona Pereira,
Animal Aid, Tonbridge

Spare a thought for shopworkers

FIRSTLY, I would like to wish your readers a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

For many this is an exciting time, but as we all know it can be frantic trying to get everything ready for the big day.

I would like to remind your readers to remember shopworkers are people as well. They will be working hard to make your shopping experience as stress-free and enjoyable as possible.

A recent survey showed that every minute of the working day a shopworker is verbally abused, threatened with violence or physically attacked.

Shopworkers report that incidents are more frequent in the run-up to Christmas as shops are busy, customers can be stressed and are more likely to take out their frustration on staff.

Talking to our members who work in retail, I know verbal abuse cuts deep. Many will go home after a shift upset about an unpleasant incident that took place at work, worried that it will happen to them again.

That is why Usdaw, the shopworkers' union, is running a Respect for Shopworkers campaign, asking customers to 'Keep your Cool at Christmas'.

It's a simple message, but remembering that shopworkers are working extra hard at this time and treating them with respect will mean everyone can have a happier Christmas.

John Hannett,
general secretary, Usdaw

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: "We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise." This is summed up in the strapline 'Inspiring Communities'.

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles: **Kent on Sunday will:**

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.
- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between

news, comment and advertising.

- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
- 9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
- 10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.



Canterbury Cathedral

by **Alan Blackburn**
from Canterbury

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By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

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HIGH-FLYER: The new generation Mazda3 offers great style and economy – a family hatchback with a great driving experience and clever eco technology



Skyactiv Mazda will soar

MAZDA has been described as Japan's Alfa Romeo – sporty with an alternative view on things.

Both marques are working closely together at the moment, with the eagerly awaited fourth-generation MX-5 also underpinning a new Alfa Spider.

It could be that Alfa individualism is also rubbing off on Mazda, with the January 3 launch of the new Mazda3 (from £16,695) – a stylish family hatchback to rival Alfa's Giulietta.

The sector is, of course, dominated here by the Ford Focus, Vauxhall Astra and VW Golf – largely due to fleet market share, though the Astra is a good-looking car and the VW's eco technology and residual values make it a bargain to lease.

Can the Mazda compete? For style, yes. In red, it could be an Alfa thanks to swooping lines already used to such effect on the bigger Mazda6.

Mazda has also finally delivered a four-door saloon variant of the '3' that really could persuade someone to downgrade from a bigger executive model – it wears the sexy label of Fastback, just to make that choice easier.

Technologically, the new car is

Other view...

the Petrolhead

I like Mazda and this is its best-looking mainstream car for a while. It's just a shame there will be no MPS hot-hatch.

the Woman Driver

Great-looking car, inside and out, as well as practical. If there is any market justice, then this ought to be a best-seller.

the Eco-warrior

While we wait for green technologies to take a proper hold, other brands should note Mazda's Skyactiv success.

also well up there; going on record to say it will avoid hybrid, hydrogen and electric until the technology is mature, Mazda has concentrated instead on making existing automotive systems work better.

Under the umbrella of Skyactiv Technology, the company has stripped weight and added strength to its cars – high-tensile and ultra-high tensile steels make up 60 per cent of the Mazda3 structure – while extracting far more oomph and economy from the powertrains.

It could also be argued the brand is now 'mainstream/premium', a middle-market sector just below premium, already occupied by Honda and VW.

However, the Mazda3's problem as it goes into showrooms is that short-sighted company drivers and private buyers may look in vain for the high-efficiency/small-capacity turbocharged petrol units the VW group and Ford have deployed so successfully and a small turbodiesel – an omission that had hamstrung Honda Civic fleet sales until this year.

Look more closely, though, and you realise Mazda's Skyactiv gizmos do deliver the power, economy and low emissions buyers want, regardless of capacity: the eco star is the 150PS (148bhp) 2.2-litre diesel

with the more slippery Fastback body (72.4mpg combined/104g/km CO₂), though the lively 120PS (128bhp) 2.0-litre petrol is also impressive (55.4mpg and 119g/km), but there is no headline-grabbing sub-100g/km road-tax-exempt version as yet.

However, the flexibility of the units on offer and the driving experience are impressive; the Mazda3 drives as well as it looks, though Mazda says it won't highlight this with a hot-hatch version this time, despite plaudits for the outgoing car's MPS variant.

Perhaps this is recognition that you can't have your cake and eat it, banging the environmental drum one minute and then banging on about 0-60mph in silly seconds the next.

And few buyers will actually want an MPS, but an awful lot will like the mainstream Mazda3 models' stylish hatch or sharp-suited Fastback options, smart and well-organised cabin, wide track and secure handling, generous spec and big-car feel.

There are some nice touches, too, such as the neat head-up windscreen display for the speedo and a big upmarket infotainment touchscreen.

All of which should make this the best-selling Mazda3 so far.

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the all-new Mazda3 range: Urban 37.7 (7.5) – 60.1 (4.7). Extra Urban 58.9 (4.8) – 80.7 (3.5). Combined 48.7 (5.8) – 72.4 (3.9). CO₂ emissions (g/km) 135 – 104.

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ŠKODA Roomster

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11/61 1.2 TSI 105 S 5dr Candy White under 21,000 miles	£11,895

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13/13 2.0 TSI 220PS vRS Estate Manual Race Blue under 1,000 miles	£21,995
13/13 2.0 TDI CR 150 SE 5dr Hatchback Candy White under 4,000 miles	£16,995
13/13 1.6 TDI 105 Elegance 5dr Red Rosso Delivery Mileage	£19,650
13/13 2.0 TDI 170 vRS Estate Steel Grey under 3,000 miles	£18,995
13/62 2.0 TDI CR 170 vRS 5dr Estate Race Blue under 6,000 miles	£17,650
13/13 1.6 TDI 105 Elegance 5dr Estate Cappuccino under 10,000 miles	£15,850

12/61 1.6 TDI 105 Elegance 5dr Estate DSG Steel Grey under 25,000 miles	£12,995
11/11 2.0 TDI 140 Elegance 5dr Hatchback Brilliant Silver under 34,000 miles	£12,650
12/61 1.6 TDI CR Elegance 5dr Hatchback Rosso Brunello under 16,000 miles	£11,995
10/10 1.6 TDI CR Elegance 5dr Hatchback Arctic Green under 16,000 miles	£11,995
09/59 2.0 TDI PD Laurin & Klement DSG Hatchback Stone Grey under 32,000 miles	£10,995
11/11 1.8 TSI Lauren & Klement 5dr DSG Storm Blue under 18,000 miles	£12,495
09/59 1.9 TDI Elegance 5dr Estate DSG Brilliant Silver under 34,000 miles	£11,450
11/11 1.8 TSI 150 Elegance 5dr Rosso Brunello under 18,000 miles	£10,995
10/60 1.8 TSI 150 Elegance 5dr DSG Brilliant Silver under 24,000 miles	£10,995

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13/63 2.0 TDI 170 Outdoor Estate 4x4 5dr Black Magic Delivery Mileage	£25,995
13/13 1.6 TDI CR (140BHP) DPF SE Plus 5dr Hatchback Brilliant Silver Delivery mileage	£17,995
12/62 2.0 TDI 140 S 5dr Estate DSG Steel Grey under 15,000 miles	£15,995
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Demonstrators

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13/63 Roomster 1.2 TSI 86 SE 5dr Brilliant Silver under 1,000 miles	£12,650

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12/62 Ford KA 1.3 Titanium 3dr Purple under 16,000 miles	£7,895
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Mercedes-Benz's new junior four-door executive coupé gives image-conscious drivers the chance to downsize with style and sporting luxury, says **Steve Loader**

Mercedes CLA 180 AMG Sport

Price:	£26,555
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
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IT could be argued Mercedes-Benz rested on its laurels a while back, allowing arch-rivals BMW and Audi to steal too much of its market share.

The same cannot be said now.

The German premium marque has detonated an explosion of new models lately and hasn't been afraid to chop and change the newcomers either.

The prime example is its A-Class entry model; two generations as a mini-MPV didn't quite hit the spot with would-be Merc recruits and, in any case, it competed with the slightly bigger B-Class.

So A-Class generation-three became a rakish, low-slung hatchback to frighten the rather ugly BMW 1 Series hatch and prim Audi A3.

Since then, Mercedes-Benz has revealed another good reason to ditch the boxy old A-Class look: the four-door CLA coupé spin-off from the new hatch – a sort of junior CLS, which was itself spun from Merc's E-Class executive star.

The CLA is handsome but not particularly modest about it and I had adverse comments during the road test about the car's back end looking clumsy against the sleekness of the rest of the car.

Front-end first impressions are undoubtedly the car's strong suit, with a typically wide M-B coupé grille, stylish headlights and aggressive spoiler, all feeding into sculpted flanks that make the car look like it is moving even when stationary – echoes of the big and classy CLS.

And despite that raked roofline, the rear is not quite as cramped as it might appear, although the reduced rear window area can make it seem claustrophobic, and it really is more of a four-seater than a five – but, hey, this is a coupé.

On the other hand, it is still practical enough to have a 470-litre boot that compares well with the 341 capacity of the A-Class hatch.

Mercedes-Benz also opted to make its junior hatchback front-wheel-drive, so the CLA follows suit; no bad thing as the A-Class sticks to the



STUNNER: Mercedes has ditched the boxy look of its predecessor and given the new A-Class CLA executive style

A-Class coupé now comes with the 'wow' factor



road well and is decently sporty.

The problem for the CLA itself is that coupés are pitched at sporty drivers and the slight vagueness of its steering lets it down a bit.

In most other ways, though, the CLA has the wow factor, especially in M-B's flagship AMG sporting rig, with 18-inch branded alloys plus front- and rear-end aprons and sideskirts on our £26,555 CLA180 AMG Sport. All Sport versions also sit lower by 20mm at the front and 15mm at the back on what is already a low-slung car.

The interior has the premium feel

you would expect of this market sector and Mercedes-Benz, although I took a dislike to the dashboard air vents. Carried over from its hatchback sister, they look a bit too cheap now on a car that starts at £24,775 rather than £20,715 – as in the case of the A-Class.

On the other hand, the £1,640 'AMG Exclusive Package' fitted to the test car added to an otherwise luxurious feel to the CLA; this pack includes comfortable black leather seats with red highlights and heated front seats with four-way lumbar support.

Add the £960 panoramic sliding roof and this CLA makes a very upmarket compact executive cruiser for someone aiming to downsize yet retain some style.

And while most would-be CLA buyers – and particularly company-car-user-choosers – will opt for the diesel versions to save tax and fuel, the 122bhp 1.6-litre petrol tested here sprang some surprises.

It's lively enough, yet I got close to the quoted 50mpg on the combined cycle without really trying, no doubt helped by a well-spaced six-speed manual gearbox.

FirstGEAR

Motoring news



A leap in C-Class

MERCEDES-BENZ has unveiled the all-new C-Class months ahead of its public debut at the Detroit Show next month.

The current car is still competitive, having marked a quantum leap ahead of its predecessor, but M-B says the new car will represent another big jump.

Due in showrooms mid-year, the next 'C' is slightly bigger yet up to 100 kilos or about 1.5 adult passengers lighter than the outgoing car.



Tourer space ship

HONDA'S plant at Swindon has started production of the Civic Tourer or sporting estate model, on sale in early 2014.

The Japanese marque says the new car was also developed, designed, and tested in the UK and Europe.

Despite being the lowest and most compact estate in its segment, the Tourer offers a class-leading 624-litre boot up to the luggage cover, opening up to a 1,668-litre flat load bay.



Toyota Is beaming

EVIDENCE of closer ties between carmakers is shown by Toyota announcing the 2014 Verso MPV range will offer BMW's excellent 1.6-litre diesel engine instead of the Japanese brand's 2.0-litre unit.

It brings more efficiency (110bhp and a predicted 62.8mpg on the combined cycle), lower CO2 emissions (119g/km predicted) plus better flexibility and refinement.

Order books open on February 1, with deliveries from March.



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- must have good attendance and punctuality record
- will be able to liaise and communicate effectively with staff and students
- must be confident to lead classes of up to 30 students.
- needs to be proactive to engage with students, using materials left for classes.
- will develop their own resources to supplement teacher resources.
- will be familiar with the use of interactive whiteboards (or prepared to be trained).

The School received a very positive Ofsted Report recently and was rated 'good' in every category with some outstanding features. Thamesview is a new school build that benefits from innovative learning environments and state of the art ICT equipment.

We are committed to providing high quality learning experiences for our students and to supporting our staff through excellent CPD opportunities.

Further details and an application form can be obtained from our HR Manager on 01474 566552 ext 8081120 or email m.thomson@thamesview.kent.sch.uk until the 20th December 2013. After this date application forms can be downloaded from our website www.thamesviewsch.co.uk

Closing Date: 8th January 2014, 9.00am
Interviews: Week Commencing 13th January 2014

CVs without an application form will not be accepted.

Appointment to this post is subject to a criminal background check via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).
Thamesview School operates a no smoking policy.



Full Time Examinations & Qualifications Officer

(REF EQODEC13)

Term Time, plus 10 days

NJC Scale C1 – (17-26) £16,830-£22,221 (pro-rated)



The Bishop of Rochester Academy is looking to recruit an Exams Officer

The Academy has recently been successful in raising standards and last year was ranked as the 6th most improved school in the country. With a strong Christian ethos, we aspire to be at the heart of the community - a community with significant challenges and pockets of severe deprivation. With sponsorship from Rochester Diocesan Board for Education, Canterbury Christ Church University and Medway Council, we are focused on bringing real impetus for raising educational standards and improving opportunities for young people to achieve their potential - this is no more than they deserve. Our £20 million building programme, completed at Easter 2013, will enable us to achieve the ambitious and exciting plans for the Academy's progression, including increasing our 6th form numbers from 200 to 300 students.

You will be responsible for jointly managing all aspects of the Academy qualifications, examinations and awards and the administration of public examinations at Key Stage 3, 4 & 5. You will be expected to fulfil your duties in such a way as to safeguard and promote the welfare of Academy students.

Essential, Knowledge and Qualifications

- Excellent interpersonal, communication and telephone skills
- The ability to handle potentially difficult situations, within tight deadlines
- Able to demonstrate the willingness, commitment and ability to safeguard and promote the welfare of Academy Students
- Preferred minimum of 1 year relevant experience, ideally within a secondary school environment to include ideally:
 - managing examination entries
 - processing examinations/entries electronically to examination boards
 - knowledge/experience of dealing with results
 - setting up security and storage methods for managing exam papers/records/ results
 - produce quality reports, profiles and other statements regarding student progress
 - ability to manage invigilation needs and line manage exams assistant/casual invigilators
- Ability to exercise confidentiality and discretion.
- Ability to prioritise and use own initiative.
- Confident telephone manner.
- Support Academy ethos and vision in the wider community.
- Experienced and skilled at using Microsoft products such as Word, Excel, SIMS

To apply, visit www.boracademy.org and download an application form. Please send completed applications to: Bishop of Rochester Academy, Magpie Hall Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 5JB. Telephone 01634 303005, or e-mail the application form to: louise.buchanan@boracademy.org

Closing date: 6th January 2014

The Bishop of Rochester Academy is committed to promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and expects staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced CRB Disclosure and satisfactory references

**To place your notice here, call the Kent Public
Notice team on 01303 817056**

Public Sector

You can also find the latest jobs online: www.jobs24.co.uk/kent

Telephone: 01303 817056 Fax: 01303 817001
Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk Online: www.jobs24.co.uk/kent

MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009 BOTTOM TOWED FISHING GEAR BYELAW

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: The Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority intends to apply to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for confirmation of a Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw in specified areas of the Thanet Coast SAC and in specified areas of the Essex Estuaries SAC.

During the period of 28 days from the date of the publication of this Notice a copy of the Byelaw and Impact Assessment will be deposited at the offices of the applicant, at the address given below and at www.kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk.

Objections or representations concerning this notification should be made within 28 days of the date of this notice to both addresses given below:

Marine Conservation and Enforcement Team, Marine Management Organisation, Lancaster House, Hampshire Court, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7YH or ifcabelaws@marinemangement.org.uk

Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority Paragon House, Albert Street, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 9HD or info@kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk



**THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(ENGLAND) ORDER 2010**

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y13/1213/SH - Acrise Place Acrise Park Road Acrise Folkestone Kent - Erection of a single storey detached outbuilding, to provide 5 bay garage and garden store (re-submission of planning application Y12/0954/SH)

Y13/1235/SH# - 8 High Street Dymchurch Romney Marsh Kent TN29 0NG - Increase in height of roof to create a maisonette ancillary to the existing retail unit.

Y13/0804/SH - 35 Sandgate Esplanade Sandgate Folkestone Kent CT20 3EA - Change of use and conversion of existing dwelling and garage to 5 self-contained flats together with the erection of a 3 storey side extension and other external alterations.

Y13/1243/SH# - Hotel Imperial Princes Parade Hythe Kent CT21 6AE - Section 73 application for variation of condition 2 of planning permission Y10/0898/SH (alterations and improvements to the hotel, including residential development etc) for revised access to the hotel car park and entrance.

Y13/1188/SH - The Manor Office 43 Castle Hill Avenue Folkestone Kent CT20 2RB - Erection of two flag poles and two advertisement boards.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

† - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010 (AS AMENDED)

**KCC/SW/0339/2013 - Countystyle Recycling Ltd,
Ridham Dock Road, Iwade, Sittingbourne,
Kent, ME15 8SR**

Countystyle Recycling Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for section 73 application to amend conditions 1 (site layout), 8 (delivery hours), 17 (vehicle movements) and 24 (waste throughput) of planning permission SW/12/445.

You may view the application at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent. ME10 3HT

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 22 December 2013



Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

- 13/02855/FULL** Frame Farm, Iden Green Road, Benenden
- Retrospective - Solar PV installations on two barns (LB)
- 13/02857/LBC** Frame Farm, Iden Green Road, Benenden
- Listed Building Consent: Solar PV installations on two barns (works commenced) (LB)
- 13/03693/LBC** Wardens Cottage, Biddenden Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Listed Building Consent: Removal of internal walls (LB)
- 13/03640/FULL** New Diamond Chinese Take-Away, 51 Grosvenor Road, Culverden
- Conversion of existing basement office/storage area into accommodation/office area (CA)
- 13/03137/FULL** Lewes Heath House, Lewes Heath, Horsmonden
- (Land adjacent) Change of use of field from agricultural to equestrian and erection of stable (works commenced) (LB)
- 13/03723/HOUSE** Southlands, Goudhurst Road, Horsmonden
- Rear roof dormer window extension (CA)
- 13/03702/FULL** 56 Frant Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Erection of 2 No. detached 5-bed dwelling houses (CA)
- 13/03724/HOUSE** 46A Mount Sion, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Single-storey rear extension (CA)
- 13/03638/HOUSE** 3 Hawkwell Cottage, Maidstone Road, Pembury
- Two storey rear extension (LB)
- 13/03641/LBC** 3 Hawkwell Cottage, Maidstone Road, Pembury
- Listed Building Consent: Two storey rear extension (LB)
- 13/03579/FULL** Cowbeach Bodiam Road, Sandhurst
- Change of use of cottage from residential to holiday let. Minor addition to link to form kitchen. Re-build link between cottage and house. Part re-build adjoining addition and extend same to rear. Fit ensuite bathroom to first floor of cottage. Renew roof of cottage with matching clay tiles and feather edged weather boarding (LB)
- 13/03582/LBC** Cowbeach, Bodiam Road, Sandhurst
- Listed Building Consent: Change of use of cottage from residential to holiday let. Minor addition to link to form kitchen. Re-build link between cottage and house. Part re-build adjoining addition and extend same to rear. Fit ensuite bathroom to first floor of cottage. Renew roof of cottage with matching clay tiles and feather edged weather boarding (LB)
- 13/03546/HOUSE** 15 Modest Corner, Southborough, Southborough Town Council
- Replacement of plastic roof of rear conservatory with period tiled roof raising apex of conservatory roof and varying pitch (CA)
- 13/03643/FULL** Salomons Centre, David Salomons Estate, Southborough Town Council
- Erection of new gate and rebuilding of boundary wall (LB)
- 13/03645/LBC** Salomons Centre David Salomons Estate, Southborough Town Council
- Listed Building Consent - Erection of new gate and rebuilding of boundary wall (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN11 1RS

Dated: 21 December 2013



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 PLANNING APPLICATIONS LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS

- DOV/13/00993** Erection of a single storey rear extension with balcony and creation of patio area and steps
Milton Cottage, Lower Street, Eastry, Sandwich, CT13 0HY
CON
- DOV/13/01019** Erection of a detached dwelling and creation of a vehicular access
Land rear of Bay Tor & Fronting Granville Road, The Droveaway, St. Margaret's Bay, Dover, CT15 6DH
CAF
- DOV/13/01026** Alterations to the front fenestration including the installation of two sash windows
Antioch Court, High Street, St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe, Dover, CT15 6GF
CON
- DOV/13/001034** Erection of a single storey rear extension
Orchard Cottage, 1 Shelvin Lane, Wootton, Canterbury, CT4 6RN
SLC
- DOV/13/01039** Erection of single storey side and rear extensions and a first floor rear extension
32 Millwall Place, Sandwich, CT13 9BQ
LCF
- DOV/13/01040** Erection of single storey side and rear extensions, a first floor rear extension and associated internal alterations
32 Millwall Place, Sandwich, CT13 9BQ
LCN
- DOV/13/01054** Removal of tiles to rear roof slopes and replace with natural slate, installation of soil/vent pipe through rear roof
21 Strand Street, Sandwich, CT13 9DX
LCN
- DOV/12/00660** Outline application for the erection of 19 dwellings and construction of a vehicular access (amended plans and details)
100 & 106, Church Lane, Sholden, Deal, CT14 9QL
MAJ
- DOV/13/01009** Erection of 1.8m high fence
Boundary adjacent to Scout Hall and Cycle Path, The Street, Sholden, Deal, CT14 0AL
ARW
- DOV/13/01025** Conversion of rear store building to shop area with a first floor rear extension over, a single storey rear link extension and a first floor extension over shop with terrace area and associated external alterations
Maxteds Pet Shop, 136 High Street, Deal, CT14 6BE
SLC
- DOV/13/01006** Ground based photovoltaic solar farm and associated works
Grain Harvesters Ltd, Staple Road, Wingham, Canterbury, CT3 1LS
MAR
- DOV/13/00830** Erection of an agricultural storage building (amended location)
New Barn Farm & Access, The Street, East Stourmouth, Canterbury, CT3 1HX
SLB

Reason for Advert Codes:-

- CON - Within Conservation Area CAF - The proposal affects a Conservation Area
LCF - Affects a Listed Building, Conservation Area and Public Footpath
LCN - Listed Building in a Conservation Area MAJ - Major Development
ARW - Affects a Public Right of Way
MAR - Major Development & affects a Public Right of Way
SLC - To affect setting of a Listed Building & Conservation Area
SLB - To affect the setting of a Listed Building

Some applications are not publicised in this list. All applications may be inspected at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, to which address any representations (to include a postal address) should be sent within 21 days marked "for the attention of Planning". Applications may also be viewed, and comments on applications may be made on our website www.dover.gov.uk/planning or at Dover Gateway, 71 Castle Street, Dover, Deal Library or the Area Office, The Guildhall, Sandwich

Failure to meet the above deadline may jeopardise the chances of representations being considered. Any representations received may be made available for inspection by the public, and may be copied to others, including the secretary of state and the applicant if there is an appeal against the council's decision. Representations will not be acknowledged until an application has been determined.

Please note that the Council does not accept any responsibility for any incomplete or inaccurate description of any application.

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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

- The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
- The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
- The application is for a Major Development.
- The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 06 JANUARY 2014

SW/13/1430:
Replacement of the fence along West Lane public footpath - Everest Ltd, Units 7A-7G, Eurolink Way, SITTINGBOURNE; REASONS 3 & 4

SW/13/1447:
Proposed siting of caravan, store shed, dog housing and additional housing associated with small holding - Evaluna, Plum Pudding Lane, DARGATE; REASON 3

SW/13/1469:
Listed Building Consent for conversion of buildings from Use Class C2 (Residential Institution) to Residence Use Class C3(a) (Dwelling Houses) - Monastery of the Sorrowful & Immaculate Heart of Mary, Warden Road, EASTCHURCH; REASON 2

SW/13/1486:
Proposed rear first floor office extension with security grill to shop front - Autowash Ltd, 20 High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; REASON 1

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Town and Country Planning Act

Notice of Applications

MA/13/1792/S - EAST HALL BARN, EAST HALL HILL, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4JX - Conversion of part of, and extension to, existing outbuilding to form enlarged dwelling to that referred to under reference MA/07/0794. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1956/S - TANNER FARM CARAVAN PARK, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9ND - Proposed extension to shower/wc block, additional access road, permeable hardstandings for pitches 26 -32, increasing number of pitches from 100 to 130 and 10 camping pods and recreation room. **Reason: 7**

MA/13/1961/S - 5-6 HIGH STREET, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0AH - Alterations to building (in association with a change of use to residential use).. **Reason: 2**

MA/13/2004/S - SWAN INN, BROAD STREET, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3AJ - Listed building consent for the demolition of part of rear addition, erection of new rear extension and internal alterations to facilitate change of use to single dwellinghouse. **Reason: 2, 3**

MA/13/2038/S - LAND AT, POSTLEY ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6RH - Outline application for residential development comprising 65 dwellings with associated car parking and landscaping, involving the demolition of existing dwelling to the north east of site, with access and layout considered at this stage and all other matters reserved for future consideration. **Reason: 1, 2, 6, 7 & 9**

MA/13/2047/S - VINE FARM BARN, WATERMAN QUARTERS, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9JJ - Change of use from agricultural use to equestrian use; erection of a stable block; and the construction of a 60m by 20m outdoor riding arena. **Reason: 1, 6**

MA/13/2059/N - KNIGHT ASPHALT, LENHAM STATION, STATION APPROACH, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2HR - Outline application for the demolition of existing buildings and the erection of six office/industrial units with all matters reserved except for access. **Reason: 7**

MA/13/2079/S - LAND SOUTH WEST OF, OAKAPPLE LANE, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Outline planning application with all matters reserved for the demolition of existing structures and erection of up to 80 dwellings with associated works for access, parking, infrastructure, open space and landscaping. **Reason: 7, 9**

MA/13/2086/S - THE CHESTNUT TREE, BENOVER ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6EX - A planning application for the erection of open fronted timber garage. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/2091/N - PEGASUS GYMNASIUMS CLUB, CRISMILL LANE, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4NT - Demolition of existing gymnasium building and removal of parking area, and erection of 3 detached dwellings with associated garaging and creation of new site entrance. **Reason: 9**

MA/13/2096/N - LEEDS CASTLE, ASHFORD ROAD, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1PL - Listed Building Consent for removal of existing timber doors to the hall of the Gate Tower and replacement with new electrically-operated glazed doors, and to re-hang and make power-assisted the oak, north-east, external door of the Gate Tower. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/2097/N - 60, EARL STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Change of use of ground floor from use falling within Class A2 (Financial and Professional Services) to one falling within Class A3 (Restaurants and Cafes). **Reason: 2**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- 6 - Application is Major Development.
- 7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.
- 9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **5th January 2014** quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 22nd December 2013.



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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW – IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

**NOTICE OF EXTENSION OF AN ORDER
TEMPORARILY CLOSING PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY AW325
AND PUBLIC FOOTPATH AW306A
IN THE PARISH OF KINGSNORTH**

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY AW325 AND
PUBLIC FOOTPATH AW306A)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

The Secretary of State for Transport has directed that the Order made by Kent County Council on the 3rd December 2009 and subsequently extended until the 21st December 2013, the effect of which was to prohibit all traffic from Public Bridleway AW325 and Public Footpath AW306A has been extended for a further 6 months, until the 21st June 2014 or until completion of the works whichever is the earlier.

Public Bridleway AW325 will be closed between NGR TR 017 388, (i.e. from the east side of the bridge over the A2070) and NGR TR 020 397 for a distance of approximately 1020 metres. Public Footpath AW306A will be closed between NGR TR 018 390 and Bilham Farm NGR TR 024 391 for a distance of approximately 667 metres.

An alternative route will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Faye Fairs

Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW – IN THE CITY OF CANTERBURY

**NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO
TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH CW54
IN THE PARISH OF WHITSTABLE AND HERNE BAY**

**PUBLIC FOOTPATH CW54
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath CW54, between its junction with Alexandra Road and its junction with Public Footpath CW53 from the 6th January 2014.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen sooner.

The path is to be closed because surface improvement works are planned and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Melvyn Twycross

Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW – IN THE DISTRICT OF DOVER

**NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO
TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH EE388
IN THE PARISH OF SHOLDEN**

**PUBLIC FOOTPATH EE388
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath EE388, between its junction with Sholden New Road and The Street from the 7th January 2014.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen earlier.

The path is to be closed because works to upgrade the route to a cycle path are to be undertaken, and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Colin Finch

Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW – IN THE DISTRICT OF GRAVESHAM

**NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO
TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH NU42
IN THE PARISH OF GRAVESEND**

**PUBLIC FOOTPATH NU42
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath NU42, between its junction with The Shore at NGR TQ625 746 and its junction with The High Street at NGR TQ 621 743 from the 30th December 2013.

The path will be closed for six months, although it is expected that the closure will be extended.

The path is to be closed because ongoing development and industrial works on the site are likely to be a danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact John Pelham

Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx
P203500- PROW/TB3/1363 (Melanie)

PROW-IN THE DISTRICT OF THANET

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981**

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

**(PUBLIC FOOTPATH TB3 (PART) BROADSTAIRS)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND
STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2013**

The above named Order made on 10th December 2013 under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 will divert the entire width of that length of Public Footpath TB3 which commences at its junction with Elmwood Avenue at Broadstairs (NGR TR 3925 6953) and runs in a south-easterly direction for 110 metres and then an east-north-easterly direction for 85 metres to NGR TR 3941 6948. It will also add a new length of Public Footpath TB3 with a width of 2 metres which commences at NGR TR 3941 6948 and runs in a north-westerly direction for 150 metres to a new junction with Elmwood Avenue opposite the property known as 'The Thatched House'.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the offices of Thanet District Council at Cecil Street, Margate, Kent CT9 1XZ or at Kent County Council's PROW and Access Service at Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there at the price of £5.

Any representations about or objections to the Order may be sent in writing to Ms. Melanie McNeir at Kent County Council (postal address as below or by email to melanie.mcneir@kent.gov.uk) no later than Friday 24th January 2014. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that any objections or representations received cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

Public Rights of Way and Access Service

**Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX**

Dated: 22nd December 2013

Planning applications



Notice under Article 13 of the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
Notice under Article 6 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA/13/02096/FUL: 17A Marine Parade, Whitstable, CT5 2BG Proposed demolition of the existing dwelling and the redevelopment of the site to create 7 no. apartments. **Applicant: Rossetti Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/13/02233/FUL: The Barn, Breach Farm, Elham Valley Road, Barham, CT4 6LN Erection of a detached glass house.

Applicant: Mrs Robinson Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.

CA/13/02276/FUL: 56 Cromwell Road, Whitstable, CT5 1NN Replacement of slate roof and repair and decoration of windows, eaves, rendered wall and lintels. Installation of metal fencing. **Applicant: Mr G O'Leary** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/13/02283/FUL: 12 Vernon Place, Canterbury, CT1 3HG Single storey rear extension either side of kitchen, reconfiguration of kitchen windows, formation of archway to carport and construction of new external wall forming entrance lobby and new entrance door.

Applicant: Mr Haratbar Reason: Conservation area.

CA/13/02285/VAR: The Marlowe Centre, St Peter's Lane, Canterbury Variation of condition 09 (sustainability) in respect of planning application CA/13/01269/FUL for the erection of 9 no. townhouses and 2 flats. **Applicant: Rogate (St Peter's Lane) Ltd**

Reason: Setting listed building in conservation area.

CA/13/02295/TPO: 8 Willow Way, Chestfield, CT5 3JJ 1. Magnolia tree – front garden of 8 Willow Way – partial crown reduction, new height 12ft; new spread 12ft. 2. 2 x Ash trees (?) in garden of 9 Willow Way (Owner Dennis Brown – has given permissions for work) – partial crown reduction, new height 20ft; new spread 12ft. 3. 2 x Ash trees at the bottom of 8 Willow Way – partial crown reduction; new height 15ft; new spread 12ft. 4. Removal of hedge – boundary between 8 and 7 Willow Way (Owner Lorraine – has given permissions for the work). Not complete hedge see sketch plan. Replace with new small hedge or fence. **Applicant: Mr Davis** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/13/02296/FUL: 44 Hackington Road, Tyler Hill, Hackington, CT2 9NQ Create a cross over into a new driveway constructed with shingle on hard core. **Applicant: Mr T Browne** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/13/02297/FUL: 6 Nurserylands, Herne Bay, CT6 5TF Extension to site of property at 6 Nurserylands set back from the front of the dwelling for additional habitable space and storage. **Applicant: Mr Brunger** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/13/02304/FUL: 4 Farm House Close, Barham, CT4 6QQ Single storey extension. **Applicant: Mr B Smith and Mrs E Court**

Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA/13/02320/FUL: White Horse Cottage, Maypole Road, Hoath, CT3 4LN Garage conversion and internal alterations.

Applicant: Mr and Mrs Haigh Reason: Conservation area.

CA/13/02322/FUL: Ickham Hall, The Street, Ickham, CT3 1QT Replacement solid timber gates to front boundary wall. **Applicant: Mr J Woollett**

Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA/13/02329/TPO: The Old Rectory, The List, Wickhambreaux, CT3 1RX Felling of poplar tree subject of TPO No 8 of 1988/G1.

Applicant: Ms F Wright Reason: Conservation area.

CA/13/02339/TPO: The Rose Garden, Bourne Park, Bishopsbourne, CT4 5BJ Fell mature beech (T 14) subject to TPO No 2 1964 due to suspected Meripilus Giganteus at the base of tree and possible root decay. **Applicant: Mrs Adams** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/13/02341/FUL: 106 High Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5LE Installation of four shop front lights. **Applicant: Kimber Woodward**

Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be submitted via public access on the planning pages of the website www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc to arrive on or before **Monday 20 January 2014**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 20 December 2013

**For further information, please contact
Kent Public Rights of Way and Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess**

**Kent
County
Council**
kent.gov.uk



HIGHWAYS – ASHFORD AREA

**CRANBROOK ROAD, TENTERDEN
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Cranbrook Road, Tenterden.

A closure is planned to commence from 6 January 2014 for up to 6 weeks.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

Cranbrook Road, Tenterden will be closed between Goodshill Farm and Little Halden Place.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Mill Pond Lane and Chennell Park Road.

The alternative route is via Cranbrook Road, Tenterden Road, Benenden Road, A262 Tenterden Road, Biddenden Road, A28 Ashford Road, Rolvenden Road and Cranbrook Road.

HIGHWAYS – CANTERBURY AREA

**CHARTHAM HATCH LEVEL CROSSING,
CHARTHAM, CANTERBURY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER JANUARY 2014**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to install electrical cabling in a trench across the road, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on Chartam Hatch Level Crossing, Chartam, Canterbury.

Overnight closures are planned to commence from 6 January 2014 for up to 2 nights, between 23:00 hours through to 07:00 hours each night.

Hatch Road, Chartam will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

The alternative route is via A28 Ashford Road, Howfield Lane, Town Lane and Hatch Lane.

**PATRIXBOURNE ROAD, BRIDGE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of sewer repair works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Patrixbourne Road, Bridge.

A closure is planned to commence from Monday 6 January 2014 for up to 2 weeks.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

Patrixbourne Road will be closed between the junctions with High Street and Riverside Close.

The alternative route is via High Street, Town Hill, Bifrons Hill, The Street and Patrixbourne Road.

HIGHWAYS – DARTFORD AREA

**DALE ROAD, SOUTHFLEET
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of Pre Patching to surface dressing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Dale Road, Southfleet, on or after 12th January 2014 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between with Station Road and Warren Road.

The alternative route is via Station Road, New Barn Road and Warren Road.

HIGHWAYS – DOVER AREA

**LOWER ROAD, TEMPLE EWELL
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To allow a detailed bridge inspection to be carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Lower Road, Temple Ewell.

A closure is planned for Sunday 12 January 2014 from 08:00 hours to 20:00 hours, with the road re-opened as soon as works have been completed.

Lower Road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via Lower Road, London Road (Temple Ewell), A256 London Road (River), Crabble Road, Lewisham Road, Minnis Lane, Lower Road (River), Alkham Road and Lower Road.

HIGHWAYS – GRAVESHAM AREA

**PARROCK STREET GRAVESEND
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of a new gas service, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Parrock Street Gravesend, on the following dates each for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

Sunday 12th January 2014

Sunday 19th January 2014

The road will be closed between Saddington Street and The Grove.

There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions.

The alternative route is via to be Saddington Street, The Grove and Parrock Street.

A separate diversion for Heavy Goods Vehicles will be as follows -:

East Miton Road, Rochester Road, Old Road East, Parrock Road and Parrock Street.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, GRAVESHAM)
(PROHIBITION OF WAITING)
CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT NO. 6) ORDER 2014**

NOTICE is hereby given that THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under Sections 1, 2, 4, and 124 and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act of 1984:

The effect of the Order is to introduce, amend and revoke regulations. These apply as follows:-

In the borough of Gravesham

Install: 'No waiting Mon to Fri 8am to 9.30am & 2.30pm to 4pm regulations'	Colyer Road, Northfleet – on the western side of Colyer Road in the vicinity of Northfleet Technical College.
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Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plan, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined during normal office hours Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX and at Ashford Highway Depot, Henwood Industrial Estate, 4 Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to Paul Thrower, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to paul.thrower@kent.gov.uk, quoting the title of the Order by noon on 17th January 2014.

John Burr, Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS – MAIDSTONE AREA

**B2163 UPPER STREET, LEEDS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of repairs to the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2163 Upper Street, Leeds, on or after 24 December 2013 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via B2163 Lower Street/Penfold Hill, A20 Ashford Road, Willington Street, A274 Sutton Road and B2163 Leeds Road.

HIGHWAYS – SEVENOAKS AREA

**LOCKSKINNERS, CHIDDINGSTONE, SEVENOAKS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of a culvert inspection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lockskimmers, Chiddingstone, Sevenoaks, on or after 8th January 2014 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at Gilwyns culvert and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: The Village, Wellers Town Road, Ryewell Hill, Hoath Corner, Truggers Lane, Cowden Pound to Truggers and Wildemess Lane, Hever and vice versa.

HIGHWAYS – SHEPWAY AREA

**CANTERBURY ROAD, FOLKESTONE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of overnight bridge maintenance works requiring temporary traffic lights, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Canterbury Road, Folkestone.

Canterbury Road will be closed in the vicinity of its junction with A2033 Dover Road.

Overnight closures are planned to commence from Monday 6 January 2014 for up to 7 weeks, between 21:00 hours and 05:30 hours each night.

The alternative route is via Princess Street and Alexandra Street.

HIGHWAYS – SWALE AREA

**SLADE ROAD, DODDINGTON
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to provide a new water supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Slade Road, Doddington.

A closure is planned to commence from 6 January 2014 for up to 5 days, with the road re-opened once the works have been completed.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

Slade Road will be closed to through traffic between the junctions with Lady Margaret Manor Road and Seed Road.

The alternative route is via Lady Margaret Manor Road, Frangbury and Seed Road.

HIGHWAYS – THANET AREA

**SPENCER STREET, RAMSGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To allow safe access to the underground phone cable network for cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on Spencer Street, Ramsgate.

A closure is planned to commence on Wednesday 8 January 2014 between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours.

Spencer Street will be closed between the junctions with Spencer Square and Addington Street.

The alternative route is via Addington Street, Townley Street, Royal Road and Spencer Square.

HIGHWAYS – TONBRIDGE & MALLING

**BRADBOURNE LANE, DITTON
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of a sewer connection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bradbourne Lane, Ditton, on or after 11 January 2014 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Downderry Way.

The alternative route is via St Peters Road, New Road and A20 London Road.

**PIERCE MILL LANE, HADLOW
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because it is necessary to install a new gas service, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pierce Mill Lane, Hadlow, on or after 6 January 2014 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Old Mill Workshop.

The alternative route is via Hatches Lane, Addlestead Road and Tonbridge Road.

**ST MARYS ROAD, WROTHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on St Marys Road, Wrotham, on or after 6 January 2014 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from outside number 14 to Borough Green Road.

The alternative route is via High Street and Borough Green Road.

**John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ**

Dated 22nd December 2013

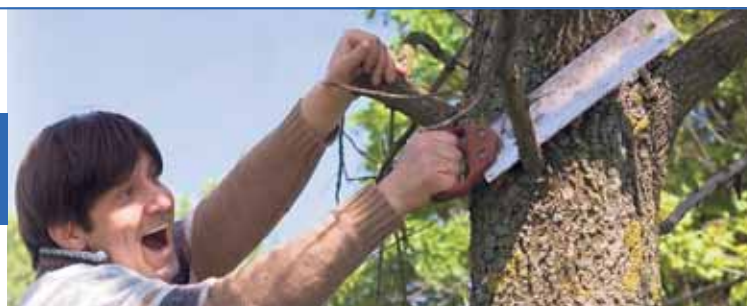
**For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 03000 418181 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways**



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Blue-blooded Kedwell

He used to sleep with a football by his bed and he watched his beloved Gills from the Rainham End. Now he is the people's champion. Danny Kedwell talks to **Greg Miles** about going from a plumber to a professional footballer.

HE'S had to do it the hard way, but there are no regrets for Danny Kedwell about a career that continues to defy the critics.

The 30-year-old Gillingham striker is fast becoming a cult hero among the fans at Priestfield, where he himself once stood as a youngster supporting his local side.

Born in Canada House, less than a mile from the stadium, Keds is fulfilling his wildest dream, having gone from part-time footballer, plumber and tarmacier to League Two champion and top Gills goalscorer two seasons running.

It is a fairytale story that continues to prove that hard work pays off, with the former AFC Wimbledon man having now won three promotions in five years.

While he always believed his time would come, there were plenty of doubters, which only fuelled the fire of the Football League dream.

"There were a lot of people saying it's too late or you'll never make it," he said. "But I always said I would make it and prove you wrong."

"I always thought I would get that bit of luck and someone would take a chance on me."

"I always had that in the back of my mind. You have got to have that belief in yourself. I have been like that since I was a kid."

"I have always had that will to win and belief in hard work. I knew I was going to make it one day."

He could have proved his doubters wrong sooner rather than later had a trial at Priestfield under Andy Hessenthaler not been cut short.

"When I was about nine I had a trial," he said. "Then I had another one when I was 18 or 19 when they [Gills] were in the Championship."

"I trained really well with a few big names. We had a few training sessions, but unfortunately I got a bit ill for one day."

"Someone stitched me up, I think. People can get a bit jealous and someone said I was lying about being ill and so I wasn't asked back."

"Andy [Hessenthaler] did mention it when I came back again and said he really liked me at the time."

He did eventually get his move, signing in the summer of 2011 from AFC Wimbledon. That was after scoring the winning penalty in the Conference Premier play-off final for the Dons.

He thrust himself into every

game with his typical intensity, but the professional set-up and the fact he was turning out for his boyhood club took some getting used to, despite finishing as top-scorer with 14 goals.

"The first year it was tough because you're wanting to do really well for your club," said Kedwell. "There was a wow factor of 'Oh my god, I'm playing for my local club'. It takes time to get used to."

"I work hard and always give 110 per cent anyway, but I found myself running more than what I used to do because I wanted to impress so much. Sometimes you try too hard and you give the ball away – that's what I was finding."

"Last year I adapted and found it a bit easier and to be the top-scorer again was amazing."

He also had to adjust his goalscoring targets: "I never, ever set myself targets now. When I came to the club I said I wanted 20 goals, but I'm never doing that again."

"I have scored 20 goals at every club I have had. I put pressure on myself and I thought that's what I should do every year."

Being top-goalscorer and a League Two medal-winner must have seemed a world away from when he played his youth football around Medway with Fetherby, Kenilworth and Chatham while growing up in Twydall and Beechings.

It was a love affair that began with a trip to the Rainham End as a

youngster, but had his father had his way he might have been supporting a different team wearing blue.

"My first game was against Rochdale. I just remember going into the Rainham End with my uncle and cousin," said Kedwell. "It was a great atmosphere, it was a really good buzz."

"From then on, I carried on watching them."

“I used to get all the autographs and scarves and shirts and things. But I wasn't one for getting pictures up on the wall – I wasn't that sad!”

Danny Kedwell,
Gillingham striker

KMI



"I couldn't make it every Saturday. I would make midweek games when I didn't have a game myself."

"I went and watched a couple of Chelsea games because my dad was a Chelsea fan, but Gillingham was always my team."

"My dad played himself and so took me as much as he could have done. It might have been a different story otherwise."

"I used to get all the autographs and scarves and shirts and things. But I wasn't one for getting pictures up on the wall – I wasn't that sad!"

"I used to sleep with a football. I would put it at the bottom of my bed."

"I wasn't at home much anyway – any time I wasn't at Gillingham, I was playing myself."

He has stopped getting the autographs now, but he has changed his mind about putting the pictures up.

"I have got my Championship medal and last year's shirt in a frame and a couple of other Gillingham shirts from the year before in a frame. I've got a big canvas of me scoring the Wimbledon goal at the Etihad."

"They are down in the cellar at the moment because I've just moved house, but I will find somewhere to put them soon."

You imagine that his love for the club is such that he would take any job to stay after his playing days come to an end, and although the sentiment is right he's not sure about taking just any job.

"I definitely won't be a kitman – whatever happens," he said, laughing. "I just love the club. You never know what could happen in football."

"One day I want to be a manager. I don't ever want to come out of the game."

Football always came first, but there was a little room for boxing as well when he was a youngster.

"I never had a competitive fight. I just liked to keep fit. My dad always said he believed I would have been a good boxer."

"Maybe if I didn't become a footballer or I lost interest, that's what I would have done."

living ultimate dream



Pictures: ADY KERRY

Promotion king and Gills move

DANNY Kedwell is a fans' favourite at Priestfield, but they will have to join the queue with AFC Wimbledon supporters who remember him putting the Dons back in the big time in 2011.

That said, there are a few in south London who still hold a grudge for the timing of his departure shortly after the promotion.

Kedwell scored 24 goals in 51 games the season Wimbledon made it to the Conference Premier play-off final against Luton.

It went to penalties, with the teams locked at 1-1 in normal time. Dons keeper Seb Brown then saved twice, with Luton's Mark Tyler stopping just the one. It left Kedwell, wearing the captain's armband, with the chance to put the finishing touch to a true football fairy tale.

After a short burst towards the 18-yard spot, he smashed the ball to his left in the sort of fashion we've come to expect before steering away to the delirious Dons fans at Manchester City's Etihad Stadium.

Watching it on YouTube raises the hairs on the back of the neck for a fan, so what's it like for the man himself?

"That was a great feeling. For me to score that goal and get that club back to the Football League will be a memory I will never forget," said Kedwell.

Several weeks later, while he was on holiday at Disney Land in Florida, he was given a lot of thinking to do with a phone call from his agent.

"I didn't know anything about the transfer to Gillingham. I got a call from my agent and he said they have put a bid in and it's not been accepted.

"The chairman told me I had to put a transfer request in for it to happen. It was hard because I didn't want to do it like that.

"I had four or five days to think about it. My wife wasn't happy because I had something on my mind on the holiday. It was really hard for me to make that decision to leave. But these things don't come around too often."



ACTION MAN: Top, Kedwell scores the promotion-clincher against Torquay last season; bottom left, with the trophy; bottom right, with Andy Hessenthaler

"I used to enjoy watching it as a kid when Frank Bruno and Lennox Lewis were about."

Kedwell's path to becoming a goal-scoring machine started in Chatham's youth team. From there he got a chance to play up front in the first team in fortuitous circumstances.

"I used to play in centre midfield and one season I scored 50 goals and we won the league," he said. "I then played a few games in the first team in centre midfield and we were short one week and I was told to go up front and I scored a hat-trick.

"I never knew how to play up front. Ever since I was seven, I played in centre midfield, but I kept playing up front and scoring.

"I went to Herne Bay and scored 28 goals that season – that's when Welling United came in for me."

Kedwell's progress through the

non-league teams of Kent included spells at Tonbridge Angels and Maidstone United. He also found form at Welling and Grays, from where he signed for Wimbledon.

All that was at the same time as holding down a job as it was not until

CAREER AT GILLS

2011/12: **Appearances 46 Goals 14**
2012/13: **Appearances 42 Goals 16**
2013/14: **Appearances 24 Goals 12**

As of December 20, 2013

his second year at Wimbledon that he went full-time.

"I was plumbing for a mate and did a bit of tarmac as well," he said. "Welling was quite close and Herne

Bay wasn't that far away, so it wasn't a lot of travelling.

"But I found it really hard when I was at Wimbledon. I was up at 4.30am and working at Ascot race-course doing their plumbing and didn't get home until 11pm at night after training.

"When we had training days I would go straight from work to Wimbledon. It was quite tough, but I really enjoyed it there."

There comes a time when a non-league footballer who is attracting interest from higher up the pyramid has to decide whether it is financially worth the move if it means giving up the day job.

"When I was part-time at Welling and doing my job I was earning quite good money," said Kedwell. "But it's good to be getting paid for something you love. That's how I look at it.

KMI

"You have to look at the sums you're earning and work it out. At the end of the day, you have got to look after your family.

"I went full-time in my second year at Wimbledon. Playing football every day means you're learning more and getting the experience."

There is a feeling, though, that had he been playing and scoring in the non-league now, his move would have come sooner for him.

"If I had scored the goals in non-league now, I would have got a quicker move at a younger age, I think. It was harder to get into youth teams when I was younger.

"There are more scouts out there now compared with then.

"It took me until I was 26 to make it into professional football. I have done it the hard way and I'm proud of what I have done."

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1.6 3dr
22,041 Miles



Only **£8,553**

10 Reg Nissan
Qashqai 1.5 dCi
Acenta 5dr
30,765 Miles



Only **£9,441**

62 Reg Nissan Juke
1.5 dCi Acenta
[Premium
Pack] 5dr
15,135 Miles



Only **£11,891**

10 Reg Mini Cooper
1.6 3dr
30,464 Miles



Only **£8,691**

62 Reg Ford
Fiesta 1.25 82
Zetec 5dr
10,250 Miles



Only **£9,511**

10 Reg BMW 3
Series 320i SE
Step Auto
5dr
52,981 Miles



Only **£11,331**

60 Reg Audi A3 1.6 Technik 3dr 20,744 miles	£10,383	60 Reg SEAT Leon 2.0 TDI CR FR 5dr 20,452 miles	£11,882
11 Reg Chevrolet Spark 1.0i LS 5dr 31,161 miles	£4,503	10 Reg Skoda Fabia 1.2 TSI 105 SE 5dr 21,732 miles	£8,551
10 Reg Citroen C3 Picasso 1.6 HDi 16V Exclusive 5dr 30,055 miles	£7,472	11 Reg Skoda Fabia 1.2 TSI Elegance 5dr 6,978 miles	£7,941
60 Reg Fiat Panda 1.2 Dynamic ECO 5dr 33,758 miles	£4,243	59 Reg Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V 3 5dr 24,248 miles	£5,242
12 Reg Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec [82] 5dr 30,399 miles	£7,812	10 Reg Skoda Fabia 1.6 TDI CR 90 SE 5dr 24,409 miles	£7,762
10 Reg Ford Fiesta 1.4 Titanium 5dr 27,321 miles	£7,623	12 Reg Toyota Avensis 2.0 D-4D TR 4dr 34,454 miles	£11,823
09 Reg Ford Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 5dr 37,519 miles	£6,910	12 Reg Toyota Avensis 2.0 D-4D TR 4dr 34,473 miles	£11,883
60 Reg Ford Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 5dr 4,474 miles	£8,550	13 Reg Vauxhall Adam 1.4i Jam 3dr 3,425 miles	£8,551
61 Reg Ford Focus 1.6 125 Zetec 5dr 24,432 miles	£10,272	62 Reg Vauxhall Agila 1.2 12V [68] ecoFLEX S [AC] 5dr 5,632 miles	£6,551
61 Reg Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi 115 Zetec 5dr 30,692 miles	£9,882	60 Reg Vauxhall Agila 1.2 16V Design 5dr 7,162 miles	£6,002
13 Reg Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi 115 Zetec 5dr 5,210 miles	£12,423	62 Reg Vauxhall Antara 2.2 CDTi [184] SE Auto 5dr 8,091 miles	£16,953
60 Reg Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec 5dr 31,287 miles	£7,112	13 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.3 CDTi 16V ecoFLEX Tech Line 5dr 7,773 miles	£12,541
10 Reg Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec 5dr 22,234 miles	£7,122	80 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.4i [60 PS] LS 4dr 80,786 miles	£100
60 Reg Ford Focus 1.8 Titanium 5dr 54,897 miles	£6,912	62 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.4i 16V SRI 5dr 12,100 miles	£9,311
60 Reg Ford Focus 1.8 Zetec 5dr 13,722 miles	£7,853	62 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.6i 16V Elite 5dr 22,694 miles	£10,233
12 Reg Ford Focus 2.0 TDCi Zetec Powershift 5dr 30,341 miles	£11,083	13 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.6i 16V Elite Auto 5dr 10,786 miles	£12,183
10 Reg Ford Fusion 1.6 Zetec 5dr Auto [Climate] 5dr 22,011 miles	£5,633	12 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.6i 16V Exclusive [115] Auto 5dr 13,261 miles	£8,151
10 Reg Ford Galaxy 2.0 TDCi 140 Zetec Powershift 5dr 28,104 miles	£12,853	61 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.7 CDTi 16V Exclusive 5dr 15,603 miles	£9,535
12 Reg Ford Mondeo 1.6 EcoBoost Zetec [Start Stop] 5dr 33,537 miles	£10,643	09 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.8i VVT SRI [Exterior pack] 3dr 47,209 miles	£6,351
13 Reg Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi 140 Titanium Powershift 5dr 11,805 miles	£15,863	60 Reg Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi 16V SE Auto 5dr 38,811 miles	£8,363
62 Reg Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi 163 Titanium X Powershift 5dr 24,765 miles	£15,033	13 Reg Vauxhall Astra GTC 1.4i 16V Sport 3dr 1,001 miles	£12,001
10 Reg Kia Picanto 1.0 1.5 5dr 12,476 miles	£4,531	61 Reg Vauxhall Astra GTC 1.6i 16V SRI 3dr 23,876 miles	£12,060
12 Reg Kia Picanto 1.0 2.5 5dr 16,208 miles	£7,704	13 Reg Vauxhall Cascado 2.0 CDTi SE 3dr 3,358 miles	£16,000
12 Reg Kia Venga 1.4 2 EcoDynamics 5dr 33,780 miles	£8,053	62 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Active [AC] 5dr 2,314 miles	£8,201
10 Reg Mercedes Benz B-Class B180 CDI SE 5dr 19,959 miles	£9,823	13 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Energy [AC] 3dr 2,632 miles	£8,701
60 Reg Mercedes Benz C-Class C180 CDI SE 5dr 19,959 miles	£9,823	10 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 1.3 CDTi ecoFlex SE 5dr 14,032 miles	£6,724
60 Reg Sport Auto 3dr 29,851 miles	£12,470	12 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 SE Auto 5dr 19,236 miles	£7,621
60 Reg Mini Cooper 1.6 3dr 10,477 miles	£9,441	61 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 SE Auto 5dr 25,442 miles	£7,482
13 Reg Mini Cooper 1.6 3dr 5,757 miles	£13,612	62 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 1.4i 16V [100] SRI [AC] 3dr 12,172 miles	£7,492
60 Reg Mini Cooper 1.6 3dr Auto 11,657 miles	£9,663	08 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 1.4i 16V Design 3dr 38,134 miles	£4,715
60 Reg Mini Cooper 1.6 3dr Auto 19,192 miles	£9,443	09 Reg Vauxhall Insignia 1.6i 16V SRI 5dr 36,039 miles	£7,873
10 Reg Mini Cooper 1.6 [122] 3dr 30,916 miles	£8,391	61 Reg Vauxhall Insignia 1.8i 16V SRI 5dr 35,464 miles	£8,853
10 Reg Mini Cooper 1.6 [122] 3dr 23,879 miles	£9,014	09 Reg Vauxhall Insignia 1.8i 16V SRI SE [160] 5dr 47,547 miles	£6,982
60 Reg Mini One 1.6 3dr 10,742 miles	£8,893	09 Reg Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SE Auto 5dr 31,401 miles	£8,983
62 Reg Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Acenta [Premium Pack] 5dr 13,234 miles	£11,971	12 Reg Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRI [160] 5dr 31,655 miles	£10,443
62 Reg Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Acenta [Premium Pack] 5dr 12,536 miles	£12,061	62 Reg Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRI Vx-Line [160] 5dr 10,986 miles	£13,461
60 Reg Nissan Note 1.6 N-Tec Auto 5dr 14,357 miles	£7,353	62 Reg Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRI Vx-Line [195] 5dr 7,218 miles	£15,851
60 Reg Nissan Note 1.6 N-Tec Auto 5dr 19,936 miles	£7,233	62 Reg Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRI Vx-Line Red [160] 5dr 6,548 miles	£14,701
60 Reg Nissan Note 1.6 Tekna Auto 5dr 10,977 miles	£7,763	62 Reg Vauxhall Insignia 1.3 CDTi Tech Line 5dr 9,479 miles	£11,001
13 Reg Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi [110] Acenta 5dr 2,094 miles	£13,673	61 Reg Vauxhall Meriva 1.4i 16V Exclusive 5dr 15,899 miles	£7,523
11 Reg Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi [110] N-Tec 5dr 25,668 miles	£12,660	61 Reg Vauxhall Meriva 1.7 CDTi 16V [130] Exclusive 5dr 6,487 miles	£8,881
62 Reg Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi [110] N-Tec+ 5dr 13,513 miles	£14,271	11 Reg Vauxhall Meriva 1.7 CDTi 16V [130] Exclusive 5dr 6,302 miles	£8,393
60 Reg Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi Acenta 5dr 22,221 miles	£10,032	10 Reg Vauxhall Zafira 1.6i [115] Energy 5dr 20,785 miles	£6,771
60 Reg Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi Acenta 5dr 33,133 miles	£9,783	11 Reg Vauxhall Zafira 1.7 CDTi ecoFLEX Design [110] 5dr 34,282 miles	£8,323
12 Reg Nissan Qashqai 1.6 [117] N-Tec 5dr 30,509 miles	£12,032	60 Reg Vauxhall Zafira 1.9 CDTi Exclusive [120] 5dr 18,564 miles	£7,892
61 Reg Nissan Qashqai 1.6 [117] N-Tec+ 5dr 3,304 miles	£12,801	62 Reg Vauxhall Zafira 2.0 CDTi [165] Tech Line Auto 5dr 12,695 miles	£16,881
61 Reg Nissan Qashqai+2 1.5 dCi [110] Tekna 5dr 36,391 miles	£14,953	62 Reg Vauxhall Zafira 2.0 CDTi SE 5dr 17,381 miles	£16,121
60 Reg Peugeot 207 1.6 HDi 92 Sport 5dr 20,244 miles	£7,713	57 Reg Volkswagen Beetle 1.6 Luna 3dr 52,466 miles	£5,433
60 Reg Renault Grand Scenic 2.0 dCi Privilege TomTom Auto 5dr 11,645 miles	£9,573	10 Reg Volkswagen Golf 1.6 S 5dr 20,601 miles	£9,541
10 Reg Renault Megane 1.6 16V I-Music 5dr 7,055 miles	£6,522	09 Reg Volkswagen Golf 1.6 TDI 105 S 5dr 45,878 miles	£7,203
60 Reg Renault Scenic 1.5 dCi Dynamique TomTom [106] 5dr 13,898 miles	£7,692	10 Reg Volkswagen Golf 1.6 TDI 105 S 5dr 45,878 miles	£8,381
60 Reg Renault Scenic 1.5 dCi Dynamique TomTom [106] 5dr 33,931 miles	£7,172	62 Reg Volkswagen Polo 1.2 60 Match 5dr 7,629 miles	£9,001
62 Reg SEAT Leon 1.6 TDI CR Ecomotive SE Copa 5dr 16,047 miles	£11,051	62 Reg Volkswagen Polo 1.2 60 Match 5dr 5,100 miles	£9,131

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